

AN EXACT
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
ISLAND AND KINGDOM
OF
SICILY,
ITS
PROVINCES, TOWNS,
AND
REMARKABLE PLACES:

As well as the ISLANDS belonging to it.

WITH
An Account of the Public Roads, for the
Benefit of Travellers: The Distance of one
Place from another: And what is worthy of
Observation in each Place.

LIKEWISE
The Origin and Foundation of Towns: The
Rarities which are to be seen in their CHURCHES, CONVENTS,
COLLEGES, HOSPITALS, &c. Their PALACES described: And
the POLITICAL GOVERNMENT of SICILY. The NAMES of
the Great and Illustrious MEN it produced: As well as of the
present Principal FAMILIES residing in that KINGDOM.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
A Short Narrative of the ISLAND and
KINGDOM of SARDINIA.

The whole Newly Translated from the FRENCH,
By D. MACNAB, S.N.D.B.

F A L K I R K:
Printed by PATRICK MAIR, for the TRANSLATOR.

M.DCC.LXXXIV.

DESCRIPTION



OF THE ISLAND AND KINGDOM

OF SICILY

PROVINCES, TOWNS,

AND REMARKABLE PLACES

AS WELL AS THE ISLANDS BELONGING TO IT

AN ACCOUNT OF THE POLICE, MILITARY, AND

FINANCIAL SYSTEM, AND THE STATE OF THE

AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES, AND COMMERCE

OF THE KINGDOM

THE HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION OF THE

ISLAND, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

POPULATION, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

LANGUAGE, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

RELIGION, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

ARTS, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

SCIENCE, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

LITERATURE, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

MUSIC, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

DANCE, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

THEATRE, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

POETRY, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

PROSE, AND THE HISTORY OF THE

To His Mighty Highness,

The PUBLIC.

May it Please Your Highness,

TO allow me with the greatest Respect and Humility, to Dedicate the following Description (translated from the French,) of the Island and Kingdom of SICILY to your Highness: Most sincerely wishing that you may find as much pleasure in perusing it, as I found trouble to put it into an English dress. Some Men will apologize for the imperfections of their Work, by declaring that they never intended to publish it: That it was wrote par hazard, and in a careless manner for their own amusement, or to help their memory, without ever intending to give it to the Public, until they were solicited, or compelled by some unforeseen motive, to commit it to the Press.

I can-

DEDICATION.

I cannot agreeable to the rules of truth, assert any of these apologies ; because I resolved from the beginning to the end of the following sheets, to lay them at the Feet of your Highness, and to crave your Candour and Patronage in perusing them. I am happy to find that this new Translation is not too much anticipated with any former description of Sicily. Whatever deficiencies may be found in it, I can only say, that I adhered to the utmost of my power to truth ; And no Man can attain to perfection.

I am a Highlandman, and we who are the Sons of the Mountains, are trained up in rural simplicity, without the least decoy, or allurements of Eloquence. And as harmless (without just provocation) as the Grass and Trees that grow upon our hills. We hate finesse, and an oily penetrating stile, which serves only to ensnare the heart ; and by force of which, your Highness is said to be always led astray. I detest and despise the name of a Tale-bearer, but duty calls upon
me

DEDICATION.

me to reveal the treasonable conversations I have heard against you, nor am I afraid that you will recompense my warm zeal and fidelity, as Harpagon rewarded the love and sincerity of his Coachman Maitre Jacques*, when he told his Master what the World said of him.

To begin then with my intelligence. In a Coffee-house the other day, where I was reading the News-papers, a young alert spark, who wore a large Kevenhuller cocked Hat, a suit of superfine green Clothes, and white Silk Stockings, was strutting from one side of the Room to the other, swearing and sinking your Highness for a partial and credulous fool; and particularly for proclaiming his Name over Town and Country in an Adventure of Gallantry in the City; when he was upwards of a hundred Miles from it, when that affair happened. He added, that you was as ready to catch at every

* L'avare com'edie de Moliere. Acte Second, Scene cinq.

DEDICATION

every idle report you could hear, as ever a Dog was to snatch at flies: And that, like a bad Judge, you always took the first report from prejudice, or upon trust. He said he knew Mr Public very well, who sometimes got drunk, and was ever possessed with a Demon of novelty and news; which, he said, rendered your Highness an Antipode to common sense.

I have heard you frequently blamed for exciting or winking at those vile and infamous riots or insurrections called Mobs. Your Highness knows that a Mob is compared to the Lernean Hydra, a monster with many heads. It is called too, the bane of human Society, abhorred by the Almighty Governor of rule and order, and detested by every honest Man. Mobs were always the forerunners of the ruin of many Kingdoms, and mighty Empires.

I was sorry to have heard you accused, in my younger days, for the death of Captain Portus. . They said that your
phrenzy

DEDICATION.

phrenzy instigated a Mob to bring that unfortunate Officer of the City Guards, to a violent exit, though it was never clearly proven against him, that he had ordered his Men to fire upon those that obstructed the execution of a criminal, who had surely forfeited his life, for the crime of house-breaking, and the King's Ware-house too!

Your Highness was blamed, during the last War with France and Spain, when we had a Mob at Edinburgh, one at Glasgow, and another at London. The National damage done to Britain by those Mobs, amounted to a Million Sterling Money, besides the lives of four or five hundred Men. Yet you may in part be innocent and justified, seeing the Authors of the seditious Libels and Pamphlets which fomented the unthinking multitude, were said to be handsomely rewarded by their Most Christian, and Most Catholic Majesties, who were then at War with our Sovereign the King of Great Britain.

This

DEDICATION

This Dedication cannot contain all the strange things that are said of your Highness: How you rail at the Ministry, and at the same time neglect the internal police of the Country; leaving an open door to every vagabond and disorderly person to molest and hurt you.

As I love you, and would risk my life upon honourable terms to serve you, I wish that your Highness may never give cause to severe aspersions against you. Let not Civil Liberty degenerate into licentiousness; nor the assumed and splendid Title of, "The Majesty of the People," blind you. Observe temperance, and keep constantly a guard against the sensuality of the body, and the corruption of the mind. I am,

GREAT SIR,

(I wish I could say Good Sir,)

Your devoted Humble Servant,

The TRANSLATOR.



T H E

P R E F A C E.

THERE are some Men who give themselves no concern about the Climate, Production, Government, Customs and Manners of foreign Countries. They banish from their thoughts whatever transactions happen beyond the limits of their own residence, and Republic. Neither are they joyful or sad for the prosperity, or adversities of foreign regions ; with whom they believe that they have no connection. And finally, they reprobate every thing that lies without the reach of both their reason and interest.

b

Others

Others of a more exalted mind, like so many Luminaries, to whom the World is highly indebted, plainly see that they are not only in society with all the sons of Adam, but are even members of the whole creation.

It is not intended here to point at any Class of Men, nor to have recourse to a tedious Preface, in order to swell, and supplement a small Volume. A Book is always big enough when it is good; and it's too large when bad.

From the calamities which so recently befell Sicily, I thought a Description of that Island could not be disagreeable to the public. And the following Translation is taken from a French Author, who was for some years a resident in that Country in the reign of Lewis the XIVth of France, and designs himself D. T. V. Y. Gentilhomme Ordinaire de la Chambre du Roy. He was a constant Writer of that Age. I have examined and compared him with other French Authors,
some

some of whom are more ancient, and some of a later date: Particularly the works of Le Chevalier Mainviller. I likewise recalled to mind any former intelligence I received from Sicilians, and from Gentlemen who had travelled in that Country: And I have the pleasure to be perfectly satisfied with the veracity of my Author.

There is no Country of the same extent upon the Continent of Europe, Asia, or Africa, nor yet an Island in the World, where the Greek and Latin Poets have placed so many of their fictions, as in Sicily. This Observation enticed me, for the amusement of the reader, to take notice, and specify some of their Fables, in the places where those fabulous events are said to have happened, which is no part of the Author's description.

As Earthquakes are frequent, and often fatal in Sicily, and a burning Mountain there; perhaps it may be agreeable to take
notice

notice of what the Count de Buffon says in his Natural History and Theory of the Earth, of these Phaenomena.

The most famous Vulcanos in Europe are those of Mount Ætna in Sicily, Mount Hecla in Iceland, and Mount Vesuvius, near Naples in Italy. The burning of Mount Ætna is more ancient than the records of History. Its eruptions are extremely violent; and the quantity of matter it throws out is so enormous, that after digging 68 feet deep, Marble Pavements, and other vestiges of an ancient City, have been found covered with this amazing load of Earth, in the same manner as the Town of Herculaneum has been buried with the matter ejected from Mount Vesuvius. New mouths, or craters, were opened in Ætna, in the years 1650, 1669, and at other times. The smoke and flames of this Vulcano are seen as far as Malta, a distance of 60 leagues: It sends forth a perpetual smoke; and, at particular times,

P R E F A C E.

v

times, it throws out, with an astonishing violence, flames, lava, huge stones, and matter of every kind. An eruption of this Vulcano, in the year 1537, produced an Earthquake over the whole Island of Sicily, which lasted 12 days, and overthrew an immense number of houses and public buildings. It terminated by the bursting of a new mouth, the lava of which burnt up every thing within five leagues of the Mountain. It discharged ashes so abundantly, and with such force, that they reached the coast of Italy, and incommoded vessels at great distances from the Island. This Volcano has at present, two principal craters, one of which is narrower than the other. They both smoke perpetually; but flames only appear during the time of eruptions. Large stones it is said, have been projected from them to the distance of 60,000 paces.

vi P R E F A C E.

A violent eruption, in 1683 *, produced a dreadful Earthquake in Sicily. It laid the whole City of Cantia in ruins, and killed more than 60,000 of its inhabitants, besides those who perished in the neighbouring Towns and Villages.

HECLA darts its fires through the snows and ice of a frozen climate. Its eruptions however, are equally violent with those of ÆTNA.

According to Historians, the burning of Mount Vesuvius began not before the seventh Consulate of Titus Vespasian, and Flavius Domitian.

The

* My Author and others say, that the Earthquake which destroyed CATANIA, commenced upon the 9th of January, 1693. And on the 11th of that month, the Earth opened in several places, absorbed and buried alive those that escaped from the falling materials of houses.

The top of the Mountain then opened, and at first threw out stones and rocks: These were succeeded by flames and lava, which burned up two neighbouring Cities, and volumes of smoke were so thick as to darken the light of the Sun. The elder Pliny, stimulated by curiosity, approached too near the Mountain, and was suffocated by its sulphureous steam.

And now it may be seasonable in this place, to take leave for a little time of the Count de Buffon, and to lay before the reader, Pliny the Younger's Letter to Cornelius Tacitus after the death of his Uncle.

* “ Your request that I would send you
“ an account of my Uncle's death, in order
“ to transmit a more exact relation of it to
“ posterity, deserves my acknowledgments;
“ for if this action shall be celebrated by
“ your pen, the glory of it, I am well assured,
“ will be rendered for ever illustrious.
“ And

* PLINY's Letters, Book VI. Let. 16.

“ And notwithstanding he perished by a
“ misfortune, which as it involves at the
“ same time a most beautiful Country in
“ ruins, and has destroyed so many populous
“ Cities, seems to promise him an everlasting
“ remembrance ; notwithstanding he has
“ himself composed many and lasting Works,
“ yet I am persuaded the mentioning of him
“ in your immortal Writings, will greatly
“ contribute to eternize his name. Happy
“ I esteem those to be, whom Providence
“ has distinguished with the abilities either
“ of doing such actions as are worthy of
“ being related, or of relating them in a
“ manner worthy of being read ; but doubly
“ happy are they who are blessed with both
“ these uncommon Talents : In the number
“ of which my Uncle, as his own Writings,
“ and your History will evidently prove,
“ may justly be ranked. It is with extreme
“ willingness, therefore, that I execute your
“ commands ; and should indeed have claim-
“ ed the task if you had not enjoined it.
“ He was at that time with the Fleet under
his

his command at Misenum. On the 24th
of August, about One in the Afternoon,
my Mother desired him to observe a Cloud
which appeared, of a very unusual size
and shape. He had just returned from
taking the benefit of the Sun, and after
bathing himself in cold water, and taking
a slight repast, was retired to his study:
He immediately arose, and went out upon
an eminence, from whence he might more
distinctly view this very uncommon ap-
pearance. It was not at that distance dis-
cernable from what mountain this Cloud
issued, but it was found afterwards to a-
scend from Mount Vesuvius. I cannot
give you a more exact Description of its
Figure, than by resembling it to that of
a Pine-tree; for it shot up a great height
in the form of a Trunk, which extended
itself at the top into a sort of branches,
occasioned, as I imagine, either by a sud-
den gust of air that impelled it, the force
of which decreased as it advanced up-
wards, or the Cloud itself being pressed

“ back again by its own weight, expanded
“ in this manner: It appeared sometimes
“ bright, and sometimes dark and spotted,
“ as it was more or less impregnated with
“ earth and cinders. This extraordinary
“ Phænomenon excited my Uncle’s philoso-
“ phical curiosity to take a nearer view of
“ of it. He ordered a light Vessel to be got
“ ready, and gave me the liberty, if I thought
“ proper, to attend him. I rather chose to
“ continue my studies; as it happened he
“ had given me an employment of that kind.
“ As he was coming out of the House, he
“ received a note from Rectina the Wife of
“ Bassus, who was in the utmost alarm at the
“ imminent danger which threatened her;
“ for her Villa being situated at the foot of
“ Mount Vesuvius, there was no way to
“ escape but by Sea: She earnestly entreated
“ him therefore to come to her assistance.
“ He accordingly changed his first design,
“ and what he began with a Philosophical,
“ he pursued with an Heroical turn of mind.
“ He ordered the Gallies to put to Sea, and
“ went

“ went himself on board with an intention
“ of assisting not only Rectina, but several
“ others; for the Villas stand extremely thick
“ upon that beautiful Coast. When hasten-
“ ing to the place from whence others fled
“ with the utmost terror, he steer’d his direct
“ course to the point of danger, and with so
“ much calmness and presence of mind, as
“ to be able to make and dictate his Obser-
“ vations upon the Motion and Figure of
“ that dreadful scene. He was now so nigh
“ the Mountain, that the cinders, which
“ grew thicker and hotter the nearer he ap-
“ proached, fell into the Ships, together with
“ Pumice Stones, and black pieces of burn-
“ ing rocks; They were likewise in danger
“ not only of being a-ground by the sudden
“ retreat of the Sea, but also from the vast
“ fragments which rolled down from the
“ Mountain, and obstructed all the Shore.
“ Here he stopped to consider whether he
“ should turn back again; to which the Pilot
“ advised him: Fortune, said he, befriends
“ the brave; carry me to Pomponianus.

“ Pom-

“ Pomponianus was then at Stabiæ, separat-
“ ed by a gulf, which the Sea, after several
“ insensible windings forms upon the shore.
“ He had already sent his baggage on board ;
“ for tho’ he was not at that time in actual
“ danger, yet being within the view of it,
“ and indeed extremely near, if it should in
“ the least encrease, he was determined to
“ put to Sea as soon as the wind should
“ change. It was favourable, however, for
“ carrying my Uncle to Pomponianus, whom
“ he found in great consternation ; He em-
“ braced him with tenderness, encouraged
“ and exhorted him to keep up his spirits :
“ and the more to dissipate his fears, he
“ ordered, with an air of unconcern, the
“ Baths to be got ready ; when after hav-
“ ing bathed, he sat down to supper with
“ great chearfulness, or at least (what is
“ equally heroic,) with all the appearance
“ of it. In the mean while, the eruption
“ from Mount Vesuvius flamed out in seve-
“ ral places with much violence, which the
“ darkness of the night contributed to ren-
“ der

“ der still more visible and dreadful. But
“ my Uncle, in order to sooth the apprehen-
“ sions of his friend, assured him it was only
“ the burning of the Villages, which the
“ Country-people had abandoned to the
“ flames: After this he retired to rest, and it
“ is most certain he was so little discomposed
“ as to fall into a deep sleep; for being pretty
“ fat, and breathing hard, those who attend-
“ ed without actually heard him snore. The
“ Court which led to his Apartment being
“ now almost filled with stones and ashes, if
“ he had continued there any time longer,
“ it would have been impossible for him to
“ have made his way out, it was thought
“ proper therefore to awaken him. He got
“ up, and went to Pomponianus and the rest
“ of his company, who were unconcerned
“ enough to think of going to bed. They
“ consulted together whether it would be
“ most prudent to trust to the Houses, which
“ now shook from side to side with frequent
“ and violent concussions; or to fly to the
“ open fields, where the calcined stones and
“ cin-

“ cinders, tho’ light indeed, yet fell in great
“ showers, and threatened destruction. In
“ this distress they resolved for the fields, as
“ the less dangerous situation of the two : A
“ resolution which, while the rest of the
“ company were hurried into by their fears,
“ my Uncle embraced upon cool and deli-
“ berate consideration. They went out
“ then, having pillows tied upon their heads
“ with napkins ; and this was their whole
“ defence against the storm of stones that
“ fell round them. It was now day every
“ where else, but there a deeper darkness
“ prevailed than in the most obscure night ;
“ which however was in some degree dissi-
“ pated by torches and other lights of
“ various kinds. They thought proper to
“ go down farther upon the shore, to ob-
“ serve if they might safely put out to Sea,
“ but they found the waves still run ex-
“ tremely high and boisterous. There my
“ Uncle having drank a draught or two of
“ cold water, threw himself down upon a
“ cloth which was spread for him ; when
“ im-

“ immediately the flames, and a strong smell
“ of sulphur, which was the fore-runner of
“ them, dispersed the rest of the company,
“ and obliged him to arise. He raised him-
“ self up with the assistance of two of his
“ servants, and instantly fell down dead;
“ suffocated, as I conjecture, by some gross
“ and noxious vapour, having always had
“ weak lungs, and frequently subject to a
“ difficulty of breathing. As soon as it was
“ light again, which was not till the third
“ day after this melancholy accident, his
“ body was found entire, and without any
“ mark of violence upon it, exactly in the
“ same posture that he fell, and looking
“ more like a man asleep than dead.
“ During all this time, my Mother and I
“ were at Misenum. ---- But as this has no
“ connection with your History, so your
“ inquiry went no farther than concerning
“ my Uncle’s death; with that therefore
“ I will put an end to my letter: Suffer me
“ only to add, that I have faithfully related
“ to you what I was either an eye-witness of

“ my-

“ myself, or received immediately after the
“ accident happened, and before there was
“ time to vary the truth. You will choose
“ out of this Narrative such circumstances
“ as shall be most suitable to your purpose :
“ For there is a great difference between
“ what is proper for a Letter, and an
“ Historian ; between writing to a Friend,
“ and writing to the Public. Farewel.”

And here it may be agreeable, to mention
another Narrative of the same Eruption,
taken from an Extract of Xiphilinus’s
Epitome of Dion ; which takes particular
notice of the Earthquake that happened un-
der the Reign of Titus Vespasian, attended
with this violent Eruption of Mount
Vesuvius, by which the Cities of Herculane-
um and Pompeja were overwhelmed.

“ In the Autumnal season, some strange
“ and frightful things happened in Campa-
“ nia, for all of sudden there broke out a
“ great fire from Vesuvius. This Mountain,
“ which

“ which is near the Sea-shore of Naples,
 “ contains an inexhaustible quantity of com-
 “ bustible matter. At the time when the
 “ fire broke out, from the middle of it, the
 “ top was all of an equal height. On the
 “ outside it did not burn, and there it con-
 “ tinues entire still, the summit retaining its
 “ ancient height; but where the fire issues
 “ forth, it gradually becomes hollow, as it
 “ subsides, so as to resemble an Amphi-
 “ theatre, if we may liken small things to
 “ great. Its summit produces plenty of
 “ Trees and Vines. This circle enlarges
 “ daily by the fire which smoaks in the day-
 “ time, and burns clear in the Night, as if
 “ they were offering up every kind of sacri-
 “ fice within the Mountain, and it does so
 “ continually, more or less. When any
 “ thing falls into it, it throws up ashes, and
 “ stones too, if the wind blows hard. It
 “ likewise echoes and makes a lowing noise,
 “ as if it came thro’ rifts and secret air-vent,
 “ and was not pent up.

d

“ Such

“ Such then is Vesuvius, and such its
“ yearly appearances; and altho’ in com-
“ parison with what has past they may seem
“ extraordinary to these people who are
“ constant spectators, yet they will be looked
“ on as trifling, compared with the present,
“ which we shall now describe.

“ There appeared many great Men ex-
“ ceeding the common size of mankind, and
“ such as Giants are described to be. They
“ were seen in the Mountains and neigh-
“ bouring Countries, and wandering up and
“ down in the Towns adjacent, and likewise
“ in the air. After this there happened a
“ great drought from the extraordinary heat
“ and violent Earthquake, so that the whole
“ plains were dried up, and the tops of the
“ hills subsided. The noise under ground
“ was like thunder, and on the surface of
“ the Earth it was like the lowing of Cattle.
“ The Sea raged, the Heavens resounded,
“ and an unusual noise was heard, as if the
“ Moun-

“ Mountains clashed together. Then for
“ the first time, stones of an extraordinary
“ size were thrown out at the top, attended
“ with fire and smoak, so that the air was
“ darkened thereby, and the Sun was hid-
“ den, as in the time of an Eclipse. Night
“ sprung from Day, and light from darkness,
“ and people imagined that the Giants had
“ rebelled, as images of them were seen in
“ the smoak, and the sounding of Trumpets
“ was heard. Others thought that Chaos
“ was come again, and that the general
“ Conflagration was at hand. These things
“ made People run out of their Houses into
“ the Streets, and those that were in the
“ Streets go within doors. Those who were
“ on Ship-board went a-shore, and these on
“ Land went aboard, every one thinking
“ that any situation was better than their
“ present one. Along with all this, there
“ were such quantities of ashes as possessed
“ all space, Earth, Sea, and Air; and where-
“ ever it happened, it did hurt both to Men
“ and Cattle; and the Grounds, and the
“ Fishes,

“ Fishes, and all the Birds were destroyed.
“ The two Cities of Herculaneum and Pom-
“ peja were entirely overwhelmed while the
“ People were sitting in the Theatre. Such
“ quantities of ashes were thrown out as to
“ reach Africa, Syria, Egypt, and Rome;
“ and filled the air in this last place so as to
“ darken the Sun, and struck the People
“ with a panic for many days: Not being
“ able to conjecture what all this meant,
“ they imagined that Nature was turned
“ up-side-down; and that the Sun was lost
“ in the Earth; and that the Earth was
“ gone up to Heaven. Although these ashes
“ did little damage at that time to the Roman
“ People, yet afterwards they brought on a
“ direful pestilence.”

To return again to Monsieur Le Comte
Do Buffon. He says, That an Earthquake
split a Mountain in the Island of Machian,
and the explosion made a frightful noise.
From the cleft issued such a quantity of flames
as consumed several Plantations with their
inhabitants.

The

The History of the French Academy mentions, in the following terms, the Earthquakes which happened in Italy during the years 1702, and 1703, and continued till July 1703. “ The City of Norcia, with its Dependencies in the Ecclesiastical State, and the Province of Abruzzo suffered most; and the Earthquakes were first felt in those places which are situated at the foot of the Appennines on the South side.

“ They were frequently accompanied with frightful noises in the Air; and these noises were sometimes heard when the Earth was at rest, and the Sky serene. The most violent concussion was on the 2d of February 1703.; and it was attended especially at Rome, with a remarkable clear Sky, and a great calmness in the Air. At Rome it lasted half a Minute, and at Aquila, the Capital of Abruzzo, three Hours. It destroyed the whole town of Aquila, and buried 5000 persons under its ruins. The Earth
open-

opened in two places, and discharged with violence great quantities of stones, which covered the whole field, and rendered it barren. After the stones, these apertures threw up water above the elevation of the highest Trees: This discharge continued a quarter of an Hour, and laid the neighbouring Country under water.

“ On the top of a Mountain near Sigillo, a Village about 22 Miles from Aquila, there was a considerable Plain surrounded with rocks like a wall: The Earthquake of the 2d of February converted this Plain into a large unequal Gulf, its greatest diameter being 25 Fathoms, and its least 20. This Gulf has been sounded with ropes of 300 Fathoms, without reaching the bottom.”

“ * Earthquakes, also, says Doctor Shaw, have sometimes been felt at Sea. In the Year 1724, when I was aboard the *Gazella*, an Algerine Cruizer of 50 Guns, bound to Bona,

* Shaw's Travels, p. 151.

“ Bona, to relieve the Garrison, we felt
“ three prodigious shocks, one after another,
“ as if a weight, at each time, of 20 or 30
“ Tons, had fallen from a great height upon
“ the ballast: This happened when we
“ were five Leagues to the Southward of the
“ Seven Capes, and could not reach ground
“ with a Line of 200 fathoms. The Captain
“ told me, that a few years before, when he
“ was on a cruize, he felt a much greater
“ one, at the distance of 40 Leagues to the
“ Westward of the Rock of Lisbon.” We
learn from daily experience, that the same
happens in the Ocean, where no bottom can
be found; and that Earthquakes agitate
Vessels even when the Sea is perfectly calm.

GENTIL, in his Voyage round the World,
has the following remarks upon Earth-
quakes: “ 1. That, half an Hour before the
“ Earthquake begins to shake, all Animals
“ appear to be seized with a panic. The
“ Horses neigh, break their halters, and run
“ out of the Stable; the Dogs bark; the
“ Birds

“ Birds as if stupid, fly for shelter into the
“ Houses ; the Rats and Mice come out of
“ their holes, &c. 2. That Ships at anchor
“ are so violently agitated, that all the parts
“ of which they are composed seem to be
“ torn asunder ; their Guns break loose, and
“ their Masts spring. These facts I should
“ hardly have credited, if they had not been
“ confirmed to me by the unanimous testi-
“ mony of many Witnesses. I know that
“ the bottom of the Sea is a continuation of
“ the Land ; and that agitations of the one
“ must be communicated to the other : but
“ I could not comprehend how the different
“ parts of a Vessel, swimming in a fluid,
“ should be affected in the same manner, as
“ if she had been resting on the ground.
“ Her motion I imagined should have only
“ resembled that produced by a storm : be-
“ sides, in the present instance, the surface
“ of the Sea was smooth, and the whole agi-
“ tation must have proceeded from some
“ internal cause, because, at the time of the
“ Earthquake, there was no wind.”

By consulting Historians and Travellers, we shall find many Accounts of Earthquakes and eruptions of Volcanos, equally dreadful and destructive.

Those awful and disastrous scenes, have insensibly carried me away beyond the intended bounds of my Preface; I shall now lay them aside, lest they should create the smallest pain in the breast of a friendly and feeling Reader: And I leave it to Naturalists to examine into, or rather, conjecture the cause of them. And when I do so, I would put the Reader in mind of what Mr Pope says, "Whatever is, is right."

THE
D I S T A N C E
O F
CITIES AND TOWNS,

One from Another, in

S I C I L Y,

For the Information of



T R A V E L L E R S.

	Miles.
FROM Reggio in Calabria to MESSINA, - -	6
From Palermo to Montreal, - - - -	4
From Montreal to Termini, - - - -	27
From Termini to Cefalu, - - - -	22
From Cefalu to Patti, - - - -	83
From Patti to Milazzo, - - - -	25
From Scaleta to Messina, - - - -	10
From Scaleta to Toarmina, - - - -	20
From Toarmina to Catania, - - - -	39
From Catania to the Top of Mount Etna, - -	20
From Catani to Augustus, - - - -	20
From Augustus to Leontini, - - - -	6
From Augustus to Syracuse, - - - -	20
From Syracuse to Messina, - - - -	100
From Syracuse to the Cap of Passaro, - -	40
From Trapani to Palermo, - - - -	40
From Trapani to the Coast of Africa, - -	150
From the Cap of Passaro to the Island of Malta. - -	60

T H E C O N T E N T S.

DEDICATION to the PUBLIC,	Page	iii
The P R E F A C E,	- - -	ix
Introduction to the Description,	- - -	I
Scilla and Charybdis described,	- - -	2
Promontories of Sicily,	- - -	4
Lipari Islands,	- - -	7
Fertility of Sicily,	- - -	8
The Fish Spada,	- - -	10
Principal Families in Sicily,	- - -	13
The Air of Sicily,	- - -	14
Cyclops and Lestregons,	- - -	17
Sicilian Vespers,	- - -	19
Character of the Sicilians,	- - -	22
Palermo Town,	- - -	23
The Theatins and Jesuits,	- - -	27
A famous Fountain in Palermo,	-	30
Montreal Town,	- - -	32
Termini Town,	- - -	34
Cefalu Town,	- - -	36
The		

C O N T E N T S.

The Fire of Assurance,	Page 37
Patti Town,	38
Milazzo Town,	39
Messina Town,	41
Scaleta, and City of Toarmina,	49
Leontini Town,	58
Augustus Town,	60
Syracuse Town,	62
Noto Town,	75
Agregento,	77
Trapani,	81
Government of Sicily,	85
Epitome of the Kingdom of Sardinia,	90

E R R A T A.

Page 5. for Pelero,—— read Peloro.

10. — Porphory——Porphry.

31. — Jet deaux,—— Jet d'eaux.

32. — Bithop,—— Archbishop.

36. — Rhonen,—— Rhoen.

39 — Toni or Tons,—— Tons or Tuni.

41. — The Way into the Entrance of it,——

Read, All the Way, &c.

109. — Achais——Achaisus.



THE
HISTORY
OF
SICILY.

THE Island and Kingdom of Sicily, lies opposite to the Southernmost point of Italy: And is of a triangular form; for which reason, it was anciently called, Trinacria. It is only separated from the Continent, by a passage of six miles, named, the Fare of Messina; which Fare is thirty miles in length, though at the deepest place, only eighty fathoms water. The ebbing and flowing of the Sea, every six hours, makes it dangerous to pass the Straits of Messina, without a skilful pilot, who knows

A

how

how to steer free from the two famous rocks of Scilla and Charybdis : The former is near Reggio, in Calabria ; and the later, within a little distance of Messina in Sicily. Virgil mentions them in the following verse, which, in time became a proverb : “ Incidit in Scil-
 “ lam Cupiens vitare Charybdim *.”

* Charyb-

* The fictions of the Poets are various, concerning Scilla : Homer's Odyss. says, “ That She was a most beautiful Woman.” But whatever her person was, every body says, That She was the daughter of Porcus : was courted by Glaucus, and received his embraces : Whereupon Circe, who passionately loved Glaucus, and could not bear that Scilla was preferred before her, by Glaucus, poisoned with venomous herbs those waters in which Scilla used to wash herself : Scilla was ignorant of it, and, according to her custom, went into the fountain ; and when she saw that her body was changed, being extremely grieved that she had lost her beauty, she threw herself headlong into the sea ; where she was turned into a Rock, infamous for the many Shipwrecks which happen there : which Rock is still to be seen in that Sea which divides Italy from Sicily, between Messina and Reggium, now called Reggio, in Calabria. This Rock is said to be surrounded with Dogs and Wolves, who devour persons that are cast away there : But here is meant only, That when the waves, by a violent storm, are dashed against this great Rock, the noise a little resembles the barking of Dogs, and howling of Wolves.



* Charybdis is a vast whirlpool formed by shelves, or rocks, from which Ships and Galleys may get off by dint of oars. And even strangers through curiosity, hire Brigantines, and cause themselves to be conducted to it. But Ships or Galleys, do not commonly perish there, as represented by ancient Historians, and Poets. By their proximity to one another, Justin was of opinion, that formerly Sicily was joined to the Continent of Italy; and that an earthquake had torn it

* Charybdis is a large whirlpool in the same Sicilian Sea, over against Scilla, which swallows down whatever comes within it's circle, and vomits it up again. They say, That Charybdis was formerly a very ravenous Woman, who stole away Hercules's Oxen: for which theft, Jupiter struck her dead with thunder, and then tumbled her into the Gulph. Virgil's *Æneid*. Book III. has an elegant description of these two Monsters:

Far on the right, her Dogs foul Scilla hides;
 Charybdis, roaring, on the left presides;
 And in her greedy whirlpool sucks the tides:
 Then spouts them from below: with fury driv'n,
 The waves mount up, and wash the face of heav'n.
 But Scilla, from her den, with open jaws
 The sinking Vessel in her eddy draws.

it away. Other authors conjecture the same thing, when they consider the convulsions and flames of Mount Etna, and the frequent ebbing and flowing of the Ionian and Tuscan seas. And that Reggio, upon the Italian shore signifies a rent, or break. Besides, the Earth, in many places about it, is hollow, with a great many dens and caves.

* SICILY being in shape triangular, forms three remarkable Promontories. The
 nighest

* The Princes of Parnassus, Homer, Virgil, Ovid, &c. have been pleased to celebrate many places in Sicily : And they take notice of the three Promontories of that Island, when speaking of the Giants, whom they represent with bodies, and looks all full of terror ; and whose impudence went so far, as to strive to depose Jupiter from the possession of Heaven : When they attacked the celestial Gods, they heaped mountains on mountains, and darted trees set on fire against Heaven : They hurled immense stones, and solid rocks, some of which fell upon Earth again, and became mountains ; others into the Sea, and became islands : Yet the Giants were cut off by Jove's thunder, Apollo's arrows, and the arms of the rest of the Gods. The Giant Typhon was of a monstrous magnitude : His Eyes sparkled fire, and his mouth belched out flames ; yet he was at last cast down : And
 least

highest to Italy, upon the North side, is called Pelero : That to the East, is, Pachino, or Passaro. And the Cap looking to the West, is, the Promontory of Lilibea, or Marsalla. The

least he might rise again, the whole Island of Sicily was laid upon him. This Island is in shape like a triangle, with three promontories, Pelero, Pachino, and Lilibea. Pelero was placed on his right hand, Pachino on his left, and Lilibea was laid upon his legs.

*Nititur ille quidem, pugnatque resurgere sæpe;
Dextra sed ausonia manus est subjecta Pelero:
Læva, Pachinæ, tibi: Lilibeo crurar premuntur;
Prægravat Ætna caput.*

He struggles oft, and oft attempts to rise,
But on his right hand, vast Pelero lies:
On's left Pachinæ, Lilibæus spreads
O'er his huge thighs; and Etna keeps his head.

OVID. Metam. Book V.

Egeon was another barbarous Giant, who had fifty heads, and one hundred hands: He was called by the Greeks, BRIAREUS: He hurled an hundred rocks at one throw against Jupiter; yet Jupiter tumbled him down, and bound him in chains, and thrust him under Mount Etna: Where, as often as he moves his side, the mountain casts out great flames of fire and smoak.

*Egeon qualis, centum cui brachia dicunt,
Centenasq; manus, quinquaginta oribusignem
Pectoribusq, streperet Clypeis, tot stringeret enses.*

And

The circumference of the Kingdom and Island of Sicily, according to Cluverius, is, six hundred and twenty-three miles: viz. From Pelero to Pachino, an hundred and sixty miles: From thence to Lilibea, one hundred and eighty-three miles: And from Lilibea to Pelero, two hundred and eighty-one miles. The length of Sicily, from East to West, between Peloro and Lilibea, is, in a direct line, one hundred and fifty miles. The breadth of it is not equal: It's about an hundred and fifty miles broad in the East part of the Island; and travelling to the West, it becomes gradually narrower.

There

And as Egeon, when with Heaven he strove,
Stood opposite in arms to mighty Jove,
Mov'd all his hundred hands, provok'd to war,
Defy'd the forky lightning from afar:
At fifty mouths his flaming breath expires,
And flash for flash returns, and fires for fires!
In his right hand, as many swords he wields;
And takes the thunder on as many shields.

VIRG. Æneid. Book VI.

There are ten Islands at some distance from the North coast of Sicily, called by the ancients Lipari, Vulcania, and Eolia: And by the Greeks, Epheftiades. Lepari has a town in it, of the fame name; and is a Bifhoprick. Vulcania, or Giera, has a burning mountain, ftreaming out fire and fmoak, like Vefuvius, and Mount Etna. Thofe ten Islands are only inhabited by Fifhermen, who find occupation enough to defend themfelves againft the Pirates of Barbary; a people living on plunder, and continually cruizing upon, and infefting that fea: For the coast of Africa is only one hundred miles from Sicily, though Strabo, and Ptolomy make it an hundred and eighty miles.

This Kingdom is divided into three Provinces, or Valleys: The firft is, Val di Demona; and has in it, the Towns of Messina, Milazzo, Patti, Cefalu, Termini, Nicosia, Catania, and Taormina.

The

The Val di Mazzara, has the Towns Palermo, Trapani, Marsalla, Girgenti, &c.

In the Val die Boco, are seen the Towns of Syracuse, Augusta, Noto, Motya, Calatagiron, Leontini, Castrogiovani, and Centorippo.

They reckon an hundred and seventy-three Towns in Sicily: But these already mentioned, are the most considerable.

The Island and Kingdom of Sicily, lies in the 38 Degree, 7 Minutes, North Latitude, and 16 Degrees, 20 Min. East Longitude: Their longest Day in Summer, is Fourteen Hours, and Three Quarters. It perhaps surpasses, in fertility, any Island in the Mediterranean; yielding every kind of fruit. And Corn grows so abundantly there, that formerly it was called the Granary of Rome. And the Poets feigned, that Sicily was the Country of Ceres, and of Proserpine *.

It

* Prima Ceres unco glebam dimovit aratro,
Prima dedit fruges alimenta que mitia curis,
Prima dedit, leges Cereris sunt omnia munus.

It produces the most delicious Wine in the world, and abundance of Olive Oil. The Sugar Cane grows in this Kingdom, and great quantities of Sugar is manufactured chiefly in the town of Sehizza. The Honey of Hybla was likewise highly esteemed among the ancients. And the Sicilian Saffron is of a preferable quality to that which grows in Italy. Every kind of simples and medicinal plants grow in Sicily:

B

And

Ceres was She who first our furrows plough'd :
 Who gave sweet fruit, and easy food allow'd.
 Ceres first tam'd us with her gentler Laws:
 From her kind hand, the world subsistence draws.

OVID. Metam. Book VI.

Aut signare quidem, aut pastiri limite campum.

Or to make land-marks, or to balk their fields.

All things were common to all men, till Ceres, who had invented the Art of Husbandry, taught Men how to exercise it: And then they began to contend about the limits of their fields: From hence Laws were enacted to determine the Rights and Properties of those who contended. For this reason Ceres was called the Foundress of Laws, as well as the Goddess of Corn and fruit.

And Salt Mines are in the mountains independent of what Salt is made upon the shore. They have groves and forests of Mulberry trees to feed their Silk Worms; which is the best commerce in the Island: particularly at Messina.

SICILY has Mines of Gold, Silver, Iron, and Alum. The Earth produces likewise Berilla, Porphyry, Jasper, Marble variegated with almost every colour; and other precious Stones. They fish Coral near Messina and Trapani.

The Mountains of this Island afford plenty of Game; such as the wild Boar, Roebuck, and abundance of wild fowl: particularly red Partridges called Starnos, and the Heath-Cock. Hawk, and Falcons are frequent in the Mountains.

Not far from Palermo and Trapani, as well as on the coast of Messina, is a fish called Spada, because he has a long sharp bone
com-

coming out of his head, in shape like a sword, the Greeks call this fish Xiphy. And the fishermen are credulous enough to believe that they cannot catch the Spada, unless they first speak Greek to him. Therefore they make a short and polite speech to him in that language; in which they beseech him very civilly to come into their nets, and snares.

There are several Warm Baths and subterraneous Stoves in Sicily, which are sovereign remedies against many diseases. The Earth of this Island is full of Nitre, Sulphur, and bitumenous matter: all which is a proper nourishment to fire and easily inflam'd. From thence proceed the exhalations, pillars of smoak, and waving flames, which ascend into the air from the summit of Mount Etna: And is often the cause of those dreadful and fatal Earthquakes which destroy Towns, Villages, and whole Provinces; and may be justly called the scourge of Sicily. And yet at the same time Mount
Etna

Etna renders the environs of it exceedingly fruitful, for the best Wine is gathered upon the small hills about it. The compass round it is seventy miles. And the most remarkable thing to be seen here, which is one of the wonders of Sicily, is, that the top of the Mountain is eternally covered with snow, and streaming out fire and smoak.

There are three Archbishops in the Kingdom of Sicily, one at Palermo, one at Messina, and the third at Montreal. And nine Bishops, for the Bishop of Malta is Suffragan to the Archbishop of Palermo.

The King of Spain sold many Towns and Villages, with their Dependence or Appendix, to people in the Island, as well as to Lords residing in Naples, and in Genoa, who are like Sovereigns, each in his own Territory. Of those, they reckon in all, Fifty-three Principalities, twenty Dukedoms, fifty-two Marquisates, and thirty Earldoms. The Prince of Butera of the House of Caraffa, is esteemed the first Prince in the Country.

The

The Constable Colonna, and other Roman Princes, Genoese, and Neapolitans have lands in Sicily. The names of the other principal Families residing in this Kingdom are as follows.

Moncada,
Arragona,
Milgliazzo,
Ventimiglia,
Pignatelli,
Carvini,
Morra,
Paterno,
Napoli,
San Severino,
Requieseny,
Ansoloni,
Agliata,
e Paruta,
del Carreto,
Mancini,
Alimena Barrefio,
Reo Ardoino,

Bananno,
Debofi la Grua,
Cottone,
Termine,
Bounfiglio,
Marquette,
Ruffo,
Lanza,
Valguarnera,
Branciforte,
Spatafora,
Gioeni e Cardona
Marullo,
Gravina,
Tomafij,
Bologna,
Castelli,
Reitano Strozzi,
Sottimo,

Sottimo,
Menila,
Fardella, &c.

Barrile,
Gregorij,
Celeste.

They compute the inhabitants of Sicily, to amount to One hundred and twenty Thousand Families, besides which, the Town of Palermo contains One hundred and twenty thousand People, and Messina sixty thousand.

The air of this Country is very salubrious. And it's very seldom that sickness, or diseases prevail here. More especially since the natives came into the custom of drinking snow-water during the Summer season. For it has been observed, that the Bills of Mortality have at least decreased by two thousand persons in a year less than formerly. But the Island is very subject to Earthquakes, by which the Earth is often rent, and many thousands of Sicilians are buried alive in a moment.

The

The common People of this Country, never had such a vile disposition to piracy and plunder, as the Majorcans and other Islanders in the Mediterranean. Yet it is not altogether free from thieves and robbers. And it is even sometimes dangerous to travel by land; though guarded by an Escort: For the very Guards may perhaps be in collusion with those thieves. Therefore the surest method of travelling, is to go by sea, from Town to Town: For almost all the Cities in Sicily are upon the shore, or near it.

The Winter season, which is like a perpetual Spring, is the only time to travel in this Country. Because the ardent heat of the Sun in Summer is unsupportable. They lodge no person in their Hotelleries or Inns, unless he leaves a part of his beard round about the extreme part of his chin unshaved, as a mark or token of his being a married man. And even women, to whom nature has refused that matrimonial signal, must give an account of themselves. Likewise fami-

families who are compelled by the necessity of their affairs, to take a journey through parts of the Country, where they are not known; are obliged to produce a Certificate of their marriage. But all these precautions do not prevent many abuses from being committed upon that score.

They have many Villages in Sicily, Colonized with Greek Refugees, from Greece and Constantinople. Their Priests are married, and celebrate Mass in Greek: yet they are subject to the Bishops or Vicars of the places where they reside, and in communion with the Church of Rome. Many of them are likewise upon the Continent of Italy in Calabria.

When the fertility, climate, and situation of this Island are considered, it cannot remain a cause of wonder why so many strange nations flocked into it: fought and fought for the sovereignty of Sicily.

The

The Cyclops, and Lestrigons were the first inhabitants, * said by Historians, and the Poets; to be Giants and barbarous men. And the large bones found in the Earth, in many parts of the Island favoured that belief. But the Cyclops and Lestrigons were not so terrible, as the Poets would make people believe. The former signify Smiths,

C

and

* The Poets pretend, that the Cyclops were Vulcan's servants, in Mount Etna, where they pursued the Smith trade along with their Master. They were called Cyclops, because they had but one Eye, of a circular form, in the middle of their forehead. Three of them had the names of BRANTES, STEROPES, and PIRACMON. Their parents were said to be Amphitrite and Neptune. Virgil speaks of their toil as follows.

On their eternal anvils here he found
 The Brethren beating, and the blows go round.
 One stirs the fire, one the bellows blows.
 The hissing steel is in the smithy drown'd;
 The Grot with beaten anvils groans around:
 By turns their arms advance, in equal time;
 By turns their hands descend, and hammers chime:
 They turn the glowing mass with crooked tongs;
 The fiery work proceeds with rustick songs.

and the Leftrigons threshers of Corn. Yet the Chiefs of Parnassus humourously made these honest rustick smiths, and corn-threshers, monstrous Giants. They likewise feigned that Sicily was the Country of Ceres, where she taught the art of sowing Corn.

This Island was anciently possessed by a people, called the Trinacrions. Then by the Sicanians, who came to it from Spain; and were chased out of it by the Siculi, a swarm of adventurers from Liguria in Italy. The Greeks sent Colonies to Sicily, and reigned there so long, that the language, manners, and customs of Greece, prevailed over all the Island. Even the Trojans landed in it, after the fall and ruin of their City by the Greeks. The Candiots with their King Minos were some time in this Country. And Rome, in the time of the first Punick War, as well as in the reign of Augustus; sent Colonies to it. The Emperor of Constantinople was Sovereign of it, until the Year of our Lord 428. when the Goths, Vandals, and

and Lombards, poured into this Island, and kept possession of it, during the space of Seventeen Years. They were defeated, and driven out of Sicily, by that brave, but unfortunate Officer, Belisarius, An. 445. The Sarracens invaded, and took the whole Island A. D. 914. They were afterward overpowered by the Normans; to whom a multitude of Germans succeeded. Pope Clement the Seventh deprived the Germans of it, and favoured the French under Charles Duke of Anjou. But the French did not keep it long; for they were cruelly butcher'd at Evening Prayers, commonly called the Sicilian Vespers *. Then the Arragonefe got, and kept possession of it until the reign of the Em-

* It's said that the Sicilians were 7 years conspiring the destruction of the French: They executed their design at last, by seizing upon all the arms, arsenals, and every place of strength in the Island, while the French were at Evening Prayers, or Vespers. The Sicilians at the same time rushed into the Churches, murdered the French, and even their wives and children. And this Massacre is always called the Sicilian Vespers.

Emperor Charles the Fifth, when the Kingdom of Sicily came into the House of Austria.

SICILY in every Profession, has produced very great Men. Such were

Empedocles the Philosopher of Agrigenti.
Archimedes the famous Mathematician
of Syracuse.

Charondas Legislator of Catania.

Diodorus the Historian.

Orpheus.

Stesichorus.

Callimachus.

Phocilides.

Theocrites.

} Poets, and favoured by
the Muses.

Frontin, a famous Architect.

Gorgias.

Leontin.

Lisias.

} Orators.

Saint Pantenus, who was Master to
Origen, and of the Christian Schools
of Alexandria.

Julius

Julius Firmicus Maternus, one of the
Fathers of the Church.

Saint Agatha of Catania.

Saint Lucy of Syracuse, Virgin and Martyr.

Saint Rosalia, Daughter to the King
of Sicily.

Agatho,

Leo, the 2d,

Stephen the 4th,

}

Popes.

Several Cardinals, Bishops, and Prelates.

Among the rest,

The famous Legist Nicolas of Tudechis,
called Panormitanus ; because he was
Archbishop, of Palermo,

Cardinal Michel Glicas, who wrote the
History of Bizantine in Greek.

Nicolas Specialis Viceroy of Sicily,
and Historian.

The Renowned Casuist Antonin Diana, a
Theatin of Palermo.

And others whose Names are to be found
in the Book of Father Jerome a Jesuit, inti-
tuled Elogia Siculorum. So many Great
Men in almost every Science, is a demonstra-
tive

tive proof, that the Sicilians are endued with wit and vivacity.

Of their CHARACTER in General.

The Sicilians are accused by some of their neighbours, of being more subtile than wise. They are very sprightly, and naturally eloquent: For which reason Apuleus called them men with three tongues. They have a fine address, are talkative, and not free from suspicion. Their sensibility leads them to be too easily offended, and even inclined to resentment wherever they think themselves injured. Some Historians say that they are guilty of flattery. However, they possess one good quality, they are very civil to strangers, and receive their guests courteously. They are likewise faithful and obedient to the Laws; and very jealous of their liberty. In old times they had a Sacred Place where they administered Oaths, and whatever they swore was wrote upon a table of wood, which table was thrown into a foun-

fountain called Crateres : If what they swore was true, the table swimed upon the surface of the water : But if their Oath was false and perjury, the table sunk into the fountain.

The Sicilians are ingenious and successful in speculative and practical Sciences. Aristotle says that they invented Eloquence, or the Art of Speaking, and of Pastoral Poems, or Eclogues. Pliny and Plutarch say that they invented Clock-work, and some Engines of War.

Of the TOWN of PALERMO.

PALERMO, formerly Panormum, is a very ancient City, the Capital of the Kingdom of Sicily ; and the residence of the Viceroy : as well as the Seat of the Sovereign Council, and Tribunals of the Island. Palermo is full of Nobility, and very populous. The streets are straight, large and finely paved. The Houses are sumptuous
and

and regular. But the dreadful Earthquake which happened in 1693, has done an immense damage to this place.

The Port of Palermo is double, and divided by a point of land, or mole in the middle of the Harbour, which serves people for an agreeable walk. The Castle a Mare defends the entrance of the Port.

The Town, exclusive of the suburbs, is Three Miles in circumference. The walls round it, are built with stones, and flanked with towers for the defence of the City. And six Galleys are stationed here to guard the coast.

The Dome or Cupola, is a fine Church supported by several columns of marble, and of Gothick Architecture; as well as it's four steeples. The chief altar stands upon four pillars of Marble and Porphry, curiously intermixt with Marble Statues of the Apostles. The richness of the Shrines with
Gold,

Gold, Silver, and precious Stones, is most magnificent. And all within the Dome, is so grand and costly; that even a view of it must beget admiration and reverence.

The Body of St. Christina lies in this Church. They have likewise here in a Silver Case, and kept with great veneration, the body of St. Rosalia. Rosalia was the King of Sicily's daughter; and they show to strangers a rock near to Palermo, where she led a very austere life. She is Patroness of the Kingdom: and they solemnize her Feast upon the 4th of September.

There are two grand Tombs of two of the Kings of Sicily, to be seen in the Cupola: The Tombs are of Porphyry, and admirably well finished.

The inside walls of St. Matthew's Church, are all over-cast, or lined with Marble: The principal Altar is highly decorated with costly Shrines: The Fore-gate is elegant,

D

with

with two rows of Marble Columns, and St. Matthew's Statue in the middle.

The Jesuit College is near the Hospital of Saint Esprit. The magnificence of the building, the grand Court, and fine Stair, are like a Roman College.

* The Theatin Church in Palermo, is a large Edifice, and remarkable for it's wreathed Columns of Marble: Some of them are thicker than the Piazzas at Rome: These Columns are real Monuments, and magnificent remains of the ancient grandeur of Sicily.

The Theatin Church has two fine Tombs in it, and a subterraneous Chapel, dedicated
to

* The THEATINS, a religious Order in the Church of Rome, took it's origin from JOHN PETER CARAFFA: He was the son of an illustrious Baron of Naples: He renounced his Bishoprick of THEATIN, and preferred to lead a solitary life in Mount Piatto, with three more, his companions, An. 1548.

to the Holy Cross. The Theatins are greatly esteemed in the Kingdoms of Naples and Sicily : They possess the grandest Churches, and finest Houses in both Kingdoms. There are many noble families in Naples and Sicily, and none of the Sons marry, except the oldest : The younger Sons who are not disposed for the Army, become Priests, and go into Monastries : So that the Theatins and Jesuits in both Kingdoms are mostly Noblemen.

All the Bishops in Naples and Sicily, are generally chosen from among the Theatins, which is a loss to them, because embracing preferments takes away their best heads, and consequently weakens their Order. Whereas the Jesuits renounce all Ecclesiastical Dignities ; and all their great Scholars and best Members remain with themselves : Which has greatly contributed to make the Order of Jesuits so flourishing, and so much envied.

The

The Jesuit College in Palermo is very elegant with Marble Columns, fine Paintings, Gold guilt, Sculpture, and Stucco-work. And particularly above all the rest, the Chapel of Saint Francis Xavier, which may equal any in the world.

It would tire the reader, to give a description of all the Churches in the Town: Therefore it may suffice to say, that there are Churches and Convents of every religious Order in this royal City; and all of them very magnificent. The newest institutions, and most austere, seem to indemnify the parsimony of their refectory, by the elegance of their edifices.

The Viceroy's Palace is majestic and large: It has two wings forming a great Court with Piazzas. The * Garden behind the

* The Poets said, That Trees grew in the Garden of Hesperides which bore golden fruit. The Trees were guarded by a watchful Dragon, which Hercules killed, and carried away the golden apples. Hence the phrase, to give some of the apples of the Hesperides, is meant, to give a great and splendid gift.

the Palace, surpasses far in beauty all the fictions of the Poets concerning the Garden of Hesperides: It lies at the end of the Town near the Walls, where it is well fortified, and flanked with Towers.

The Court of the Viceroy is very grand, attended with a train of Officers, Gentlemen, and a numerous guard. His Palace is at the end of the Great Street, called the Cassaro, which begins at the Harbour, and runs along the whole Town.

The finest and most elegant Palaces of Palermo are in the Cassaro, where Gentlemen and Ladies, every evening, take an airing in their Coaches, which exceed three thousand Carriages in this Royal City: But Chairs are not so frequently used here, as in Naples.

The Town is so well stored with Water, that they have Fountains in all the public places, Squares, Palaces, Monastries, and pri-

private Houses. There is a very handsome Fountain before the Viceroy's Palace : And near it, is the Statue of Philip the Fourth, upon a Pedestal in Bas-Relief, and cantoned after the same manner ; with the four Virtues. The whole is executed with the finest Marble in the Kingdom.

But the finest in all the Town, or indeed in any part of the world, even without excepting the Fountain in the Square of Navona at Rome, is the Fountain which is in the Grand Square opposite to the Palace of Justice, or called the Vicarage, at Palermo ; and where all the Tribunals assemble. It was much damaged by the Earthquake which happened A. D. 1693. This famous Fountain is in the form of a Cascade, with several Basons, the one above the other, and over all the Basons are the figures of several animals in different postures, disgorging streams of water from one to another into every Bason. They are surrounded with other Statues of fine Marble, forming a theatre
which

which exhibits a sight of admiration and delight : Above all the Basons is a large Conque, or Triton's Trumpet, to receive the water from many Jet deaux : In short, this Fountain is matchless.

Four other Fountains are seen in the four corners where the New Street passes cross-ways over Larue de Cours, [Court-Street] forming a Square, where there are four Palaces ; four Fountains with their Basons ; and four Statues, of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, of Philip the Second, Philip the Third, and of Philip the Fourth. There is another Statue in Bronze of Charles the Fifth before the Palace.

The Town of Palermo is situated in a very pleasant and fertile country, surrounded with hills in form of an Amphitheatre ; and bespangled with the brightness and beauty of country Seats, belonging to the Princes and great Lords of Palermo.

A road goes out of the town from the Port of St. George to Mount Peregrin, which is a very high Mountain with a cave or Grotto in it, where Rosalia led a very penitential life: And is now a place where a great concourse of people goes a pilgrimage. The Grotto has a chapel where divine service is performed.

Of MOUNTREAL.

The Town of Mountreal is four miles from Palermo; it was formerly an Abbey, and now a Bishoprick. Going out at the New Port of Palermo, one enters into a paved road, shaded with an alley of lofty trees, and watered in the middle with many Jet deaux. Delightful Villas present themselves on all sides, and going farther upon the same road, a person sees nothing but continual Vineyards, Orchards, and Gardens.

The

The Abbey of Mountreal was founded An. 1270, by Charles the First Duke of Anjou, and King of the two Sicilies, in honour of his brother St. Louis, King of France, whose body was deposited here, when they intended to carry it to France from Tunis, before which last place St. Louis died of the plague: And his bowels were interr'd in the Abbey-Church of Mountreal. This Church is ornamented with Mosaick paintings, and has in it several Marble Tombs of Sicilian Kings, Princes, and Noblemen. Mountreal, though a small Town, is very pretty: It is situated upon a hill in the middle of a very pleasant country full of fruit, and Olives. There is an old Castle upon the point of a steep rock, commanding the whole Town; but it is much out of repair, neglected, and falling to ruin.

The Archbishop's Palace is in the most principal Street of the Town, near the Great Square: It's a large and elegant Edifice with beautiful Gardens. All the hill upon

E

which

which the Town of Mountreal stands, is surrounded with Gardens; and the Valleys about it are well cultivated and watered with brooks and fountains; which render the environs altogether delicious. The view from Mountreal is most delightful: a person from thence can have a prospect of Palermo, of the country round it, the Sea, and the Islands of Lipari.

The TOWN of TERMINI.

Coasting along the Shore upon the North side of the Island, the first Town that presents itself to view, within twenty-seven miles of Mountreal, is Termini, formerly Thimeræ, or * Himeræ; so named upon account of it's
Warm-

* In the First Book of TELEMACHUS, he relates to Calipso the success of a battle that Mentor and himself fought for Acestes, against the Himeræans, &c. It is very certain that the Town of Himeræ was in Sicily, near the mouth of a river of the same name. It was very flourishing during 140 years: and was at last destroyed by the Carthagenians, under Hannibal, 400 years before the birth of our Saviour.

Warm-Baths, which are very salutary, but much neglected because few maladies are felt in this country, since the practice of drinking snow-water in Summer, prevailed among the inhabitants.

The Wine of Termini exceeds in strength the Wine of Greece : And great quantities of it is transported to Rome, and to other parts in Italy.

Termini has no port for shipping, but only a road where Barks are drawn upon the sand. This road is defended by a Castle of modern fortification, somewhat like a citadel. There is nothing remarkable to be seen in Termini, except the Great Church, the principal Square, the Town-House, a fine Fountain, and a grand Acqueduc.

The chief traffick here, is Wine, Corn and Fruit : And among other commodities, Lemons, and Citrons of an extraordinary size.

The

The Town of CEFALU.

CEFALU is distant from Termini twenty two miles, and built upon the extremity of a Cape of the same name. This Cape or promontory forms a very safe Harbour for shipping. The Town has only two principal Streets in it: one of them leads to the Great Market place, or Square; where the Episcopal Church stands, which has a remarkable high Tower in place of a Steeple. This Church was founded by Roger, a Norman King. It's ornamented with good ancient paintings interspersed with Flower-de-luces. The Portico though of a Gothick Architecture, is well-finished; and not unlike that of St. Owen's at Rhonen. A Fountain of an admirable structure, and bason, stands in the Square.

The Castle is built upon an eminence, commanding the Town and Port. It has
com-

commonly a strong body of troops in it, destined to check the Corsairs or Pirates of Barbary, who are perpetually cruising upon the coast of Sicily. These infidels and freebooters, make frequent descents upon the Island: they invade the country, and even assault towns, plundering and carrying away men and women into slavery.

For that reason, the Sicilians erected towers within a certain distance of each other, near the shore, mounted with Cannons and with men, who are always in pay. These men kindle two fires at night, upon the top of the towers, when they have seen during the day, any Corsairs roving at Sea, or near the coast: But when they have seen none, they kindle only one fire, which is called the fire of assurance.

The

The Town of PATTI.

From Cefalu to Patti, is eighty-three miles. The coast from Palermo to Cefalu appears barren; and the shore is bordered with wild and romantick rocks. But the back or inland valleys, are of a very fat soil; and greatly peopled; abounding in all sorts of fruit. The Fortrefs of Tusa, is twelve miles from Cefalu; and twelve miles beyond Tusa lies Caronia, where the hills are covered with Vines, and the mountains with Mulberry, Chesnut, and Olive trees. Capo Orlando and Fort, is thirty miles from Caronia. And twenty-four miles from thence is the Town of Patti. This last place is a Bishop's See. The Streets of this City are neat and clean; and the Houses are well built. The Cathedral is a grand edifice, decorated with Marble, and paintings. And the Market Square, wherein all the Streets of the town center, is spacious. The Bishop's Palace, the Town Palace, and the Castle, deserve most attention,

The

The Castle of Olivieri, built upon the ruins of the ancient * Tyndaridæ, lies between Patti, and Milazzo, where they carry on the fishing of the Toni, or Tons.

Of MILAZZO.

The Town of Milazzo is twenty-five miles from Patti. It's a double place, for the High Town is built upon a steep rock projecting into the Sea, by nature strong, and fortified with walls and bastions. Situation and art have made it by far the strongest town in all the Kingdom of Sicily. The Lower Town is more mercantile than the High Town. It has fine regular Streets, and a famous Fountain.

From

* CASTOR and POLLUX are often called TYNDARIDÆ, by the Poets. They were supposed brothers to CLYTEMNESTRA, and HELENA. They had the name of TYNDARIDÆ from their father King TYNDARS.

From Milazzo to Messina by sea, and passing the Straits of the Fare, is forty-five miles; and only thirty miles by land.

Of MESSINA.

MESSINA is a very ancient City. The name of it at first, was Zancle, which signifies a Sickle, from the Port of Messina being crooked like that instrument. It lies opposite to Reggio upon the Italian shore, and is the finest and safest Harbour in all the Mediterranean. Ships of any burden can come close to the Quay, and near the Houses; for the water is deeper here than in the Port of Marseilles.

The Messinians, Marmotins, and other people from Greece, were the first founders of Messina. The Port is defended by the Fortress of Saint Sauveur, which is erected upon a hill at one end of the Town. And there

there is a Platform upon a steep rock, with four large towers of modern fortification, commanding the whole Town. The Bastions of St. James, and St. George, near the Light-House, defend the entrance of the Mole. There are likewise other Forts to defend the Town; such as Fort St. Katharine upon the hill, &c.

Messina is five miles in circumference, and surrounded with strong walls, deep fosses, and fourteen bastions. It has four suburbs, viz. Zakra, St. Deo, Port du bois, or St. Philip, and Porto Real.

The first view of the Quay of Messina, presents itself like an amphitheatre, exhibiting an agreeable sight of a semicircular row of grand Houses and Palaces of equal symmetry. The Quay is built of large square hewn stones: The length of it is two thousand paces. The Mole is a point of very solid earth, inclosing or embracing the Port, in shape of a Sickle, the way into the entrance of it, which is very narrow.

F

The

The Castel a Mare, and bastions already mentioned, are erected upon the point of the Mole; where there is a Fountain in Marble, of an admirable construction, done by John Angelo Montorsolia, a Florentine: It has several Statues in Bronze; and among the rest, that of Charybdis, Scylla and Neptune, &c. The whole is executed in a very masterly manner. He likewise built the Light-House upon the point, like a Copula. He finished an Aqueduc, and St. Laurence's Church in Messina.

The Exchange for Merchants, is upon the Quay: It's inclosed with balusters of white Marble, and seats of the same all round about it; which are cool and agreeable in a warm climate. The Great Store-House, or Lazaret, is upon the Point, or Mole above-mentioned, where Men and Merchandize coming from the Levant make their quarantine.

The finest Streets in Messina are on a parallel with the Quay. The Houses next to the
Port

Port have fine Shops, full of the richest and most valuable Goods, and ornamented at certain intervals with grand Squares, and Market-places.

Some Streets in the Town descend down from the hill, and form Squares full of Statues and Fountains in the Quarrefours, or places where the Streets intersect each other. The whole City of Messina presents a most beautiful sight of grand Churches, elegant Palaces, and fine Houses. And for Trade, it is one of the most frequented Towns in Europe, owing to the importance of the Straits of Messina, the goodness of its Port, and advantageous situation between the Levant and Western Nations: At the same time, the fertility of the Island yields every kind of Fruit and Corn: And particularly, their great commerce in Silk. Ships come often to the Port of Messina for these goods, from Alexandria, Aleppo, Smirna, and Constantinople: Besides, the Gallies of Malta frequent this Port, as well for Corn and other provisi-

ons,

ons, as likewise to receive the contributions of the Commanderies and Priories of the Order of Malta, established in all the Roman Catholick States in Europe: And Bills of Exchange payable to the Knights of Malta, are remitted to the Merchants of Messina by those Commanderies and Priories, because the Messinians by their situation and trade, correspond with almost every Nation both East and West,

The Governor of Messina, whom they call Stratigo, is in a manner independent of the Viceroy: His Palace stands almost at the end of the Town; it is a sumptuous structure, with several large wings to it: And was built by order of the Emperor Charles the Fifth. The Equestrian Statue of Philip the Fourth, in Bronze, upon a Pedestal of Marble in Bas-Relief, stands in a grand Square opposite to the Governor's Palace.

The City-Granary is not far from the Palace. The College and Seminary, are at
the

the entrance of the Strata Nuova, where some elegant Palaces are to be seen ; and of these the Archbishop's Palace is the most considerable, forming a Square with four Fountains of the most exquisite Marble in Sicily. The Great Palace of Mount Piety is near the Grand Hospital. And near the Monastery of Coldeliers, is, the Hospital of the Sick, called Loggia : A person, from its outward appearance, would rather take it to be a Palace, than a House for the Poor.

There are ten Parishes in the Town of Messina, and from sixty to seventy thousand inhabitants. The Cathedral Church called St. Marie la Neuve, is remarkably large : The principal Gate is lined with Marble, and the Church floor is paved with it. Upon the front, above the Portico, are wrote these words in French, and in Gothick letters, " Grand Merci a Messine : Great thanks to Messina : " Upon account of Ships which the Messinians lent to the French, to carry them to the Levant, in the time of the Croisados :
Or

Or else, according to others, because that during the Sicilian Vespers, the people of Messina provided Ships for the French, and sent them back to Naples, and Provence; and did not murder them as the rest of the Sicilians had done. The roof of the Cathedral is covered with Lead, arched and gilt on the inside. The Tabernacle for keeping the B. Sacrament, is made of massive gold. The chief Altar is decorated with lofty Columns of fine variegated Marble. The Candlesticks, Lamps, Vases, &c. are of Gold and Silver. The Shrines of the Altar are immensely rich with precious Stones set in Gold. The Steeple is very high, and detached from the Church. They keep the Treasures and Archives of the Town below; it likewise Greek Manuscripts left as a Compliment to the Town by Conftine Lascaris, Professor of that Language.

The Church of St. John is remarkable for its stately Front, and supported with lofty Columns of Marble. The principal Altar is

one

one of the most magnificent Altars in Messina. The Annonciada is in a large Street, called the Uccellatore : This Church is elegantly finished, and of modern Architecture. It was built by Cardinal Caraffa, with a fine Steeple, which fell during the Earthquake that happened in the Month of January, A.D. 1693. : The Steeple did a great deal of damage where it came down. It is most amazing that they raise such huge and high buildings in Towns that are populous, and so very subject to extraordinary Earthquakes.

The Jesuit College in Messina, is as fine a fabrick as any in that Town : And none but most able Professors, and Men of the greatest learning, are admitted into it. They have in this College a vast concourse of Students, from Greece, Egypt, Arabia, and many distant parts of Asia.

The Nobility of Messina have many beautiful Country - Seats, built upon rising grounds and hills without the Town ; where
they

they have a very extensive view into the Island, the Town, and Fare of Messina; and a full sight of the Ionian, and Tuscan Seas. And upon the coast of Italy they see Reggio, and a great part of Calabria.

The most delightful place in all the environs of Messina, is that which goes by the name of Paradise; where there are finer Gardens, Fountains, Statues, and Jet d'eaux, than in the most pleasant Vineyards of Rome.

In short, people enjoy upon this Coast a perpetual Spring: For the continual breezes from the Sea, and the gentle zephires, drive away the ardent heat of the Sun in Summer. And the favourable proximity of the Sunbeams banish away the rigour of Winter.

If this Kingdom had not been so subject to foreign invasions, to insurrections, and to tyrants; (for Sicily has been the cradle of tyrants :) And were it not for awful Etna, and dreadful Earthquakes, Sicily might be called, The Island of felicity.

There

There is nothing remarkable to be seen in the suburbs of Messina: They have a Convent or two; and chiefly Fishermen reside in the suburbs. There is likewise a Square in them, of a thousand paces diameter, and full of Silk-Weavers.

Of the MARKET-TOWN of
S C A L E T A:
And CITY of TOARMINA.

The East Coast of Sicily, beginning at Cap-Faro, and ending at Cap-Passaro, is as fertile as any part of the Island, and full of Towns, whose inhabitants are all of Greek origin. The Burgh of Scaleta lies within ten miles of Messina. And Toarmina, formerly Tauromanium, is twenty miles from Scaleta. Toarmina is situated upon a hill stretching out into the Sea, which renders it a strong place, having but one Port to come into it.

G

The

The road to the said Port is so steep and high, that it can easily be defended by a small party of men.

This Town has no Harbour for Ships, and only a Road before it, which is always full of small Vessels coming for freights of Corn, with which the Country abounds.

TOARMINA has nothing remarkable about it, except one neat Fountain in the Market-place, which is only a small Square. The Streets are crooked and narrow. The ruins of a Temple of * Appollo, which was once very famous, is to be seen here.

The

* He was said to have invented Physic, Music, Poetry and Rhetoric. From his power of healing, the first things sacrificed to him, was the Olive, and Laurel-tree: And among other Animals, Swans were offered to him, because they have a faculty of divination from APPOLLO, and foresee the happiness in death; they die pleased and singing.

When APPOLLO and PAN sung together, MIDAS King of Phrygia, rashly determined the Victory to the God PAN: APPOLLO stretched out his Ears to the length and shape of Asses Ears.

partem

The Town of CATANIA.

The ancient Town of Catania lies thirty miles from Toarmina. It was entirely ruined during the Earthquake which happened upon the 11th of January, 1693. It had been often damaged by Mount Gibel, or Etna,

——partem damnatur in unam ;

Induit urque aures lente gradientis asselli.

Punish'd in the offending part, he bears

Upon his scull a slow-pac'd Afs's Ears.

OVID. Metam. Book VI.

MIDAS was grieved, and endeavoured to hide his disgrace by his hair : But being obliged to reveal it to his Barbar, he earnestly entreated him, with great promises, not to devulge it : The Barbar could no longer contain a secret so wonderful, therefore he went and dug a hole in the earth ; and putting his mouth to it, whispered these words, " King MIDAS has Afs's Ears !" Then filling up the hole with earth, he went away. But the very reeds which grew from that earth, when moved by the least blast of wind, uttered the same words which the Barbar had buried in it, viz. " King MIDAS has the Ears of an Afs."

He dug a hole, and in it whispering said,

What monstrous Ears sprout from King MIDAS' head !

Etna, but the destruction of it was never so general as at this time ; and will require ages to repair it, seeing there was not one stone left upon another.

CATANIA is situated upon the Sea-shore, in the middle of a Bay, but has no Harbour for Shipping. Many remains of Antiquity are seen in this unhappy place : Such as an Amphitheatre, and several Heathen Temples. The Cathedral (converted now into a Christian Place of Worship,) was one of those Temples : It had ten Pillars of Marble, which were so thick that two Men could not join hands round about them : They supported an Architrave, where these words were engraved, “ Luberius Volutio cos Thermas Catania.” Luberius, who was a Roman Consul, and perhaps Proconsul, or Governor of Sicily, built this magnificent Edifice for a Bath to himself : Which Bath, in succeeding ages, was converted into a Cathedral Church. But the terrible Earthquake already mentioned, began upon the 9th of January, 1693. which

which became so furious, that upon the 11th day of the said Month, it tumbled down in a heap of ruin the whole Town.

The Earth suddenly opened in several places, and quickly swallowed up those whom the fallen materials of the Houses had spared. Eleven thousand persons who had fled into the Cathedral, imploring the Divine Assistance with fearful cries and moans, were in an instant absorbed into a sudden rent of the Earth, and buried under the ruins of the Church, which fell down upon them. This catastrophe happened at the time when the Priest was giving the Benediction: And only the Minister of the Altar, and about an hundred people who were before it, escaped. Nothing remained of the Cathedral Church, except the chief Altar, and two small Chapels on each side of it: The rest of it became a heap of rubbish, with eleven thousand souls buried in a moment under it.

Since

Since this once flourishing City was totally destroyed, it will be unnecessary to trouble the reader with any further description of it. And it is not in the power of speech to express the calamities which followed these disasters. The Town, the fields about it, and the country were depopulated. Some men lost their Wives, Wives lost their husbands, Parents lost their Children, and Children lost their parents. The dead bodies of Men and Cattle, as well as the exhalations which issued out at rents and crevices from the bosom of the earth; had infected the air, and caused maladies, and a mortality which carried mostly away the sad remnant of those that were spared by the Earthquake.

The fertility of the Country invited in a short time new inhabitants to it, who lived in Tents, and slender Huts, not daring to erect proper Houses: But now they begin to rebuild the City in the same place where it formerly stood.

They

They have always Ships from Malta; in the Bay or Road of Catania, coming for Wine, Fruit and Corn; for the Island of Malta is too small, and too barren to maintain all the People who live in it.

They have at Catania, in the Month of February, an annual Fair; where a great concourse of Sicilians and Strangers assemble. Mount Etna is only twenty miles from it: And the road from thence, to that tremendous Mountain, goes over a fine plain Country for the space of ten miles. The soil on every side of that way, is very fat, yielding variety of Fruit: And many Plantations of Sugarcane. This plain country of ten miles, ends at the Village of Pedara, where travellers ascend the Mountain through a Wood; and walking upon Pumice-stone which Mount Etna throws out continually, they come to the Philosopher's Tower which is two miles above Pedara; and where the Sicilians maintain that Empedocles lived, to observe the motion of the Stars.

Strang-

Strangers from curiosity, ascend Mount Etna three miles above the Philosopher's Tower, where the ground in many parts is full of chinks and crevices, which vent and discharge at times, fire and smoak. It is still five miles beyond this last place, to the summit of the hill, where pillars of black smoak, and flames of fire ascend eternally into the skies. But no body can go near the top of the Mountain, which is always Summer and Winter covered with Snow; besides the danger of falling down into the pits and rents that are about it.

A Brigantine comes every fifteen days from Malta to the Gulf of Catania, for a lading of Snow to refresh Wine. Though Etna is a most disagreeable and treacherous neighbour, yet it bestows many benefits, to wit, By the Snow upon the top of it; by the Timber of its forrests; and plenty of Wine growing on the small hills round about it; and by abundance of Corn, Fruit and Sugar-Cane, growing in the plain Country below it. The

The Valley of Catania owing to the goodness of the soil, is extremely well peopled; and full of Market-Towns that are rather like so many Cities. Upon the banks of the River Gabella, or Jaretta, (which River is the ancient * Symethus,) lies the Bourghs of Aderno, Paterno, formerly Adranum, and Hybla. This last place is famous for the quality of the honey gathered there; and was so much esteemed in the days of yore, that Virgil took notice of it in his first Eclogue.

H

The

* The River SYMETHUS was sometimes called ACIS, and afterwards FREDDO, on account of the coolness of its water: And now it goes by the name of GABELLA. The fiction in OVID's METAMORPH concerning the SYMÆTHEANS, ACIS, and Sea-Nymph GALATEA, is rather long: But it's set down here, and left to the reader to peruse it, or pass it over.

When speaking of the Trojans, after the destruction of their City, which was 1184 years before the Birth of CHRIST: He says,

“ In the next place, they [the Trojans] make for the Country of
 “ the Phœacians, planted with fine fruit, after that EPIRE, and
 “ BUTHROTOS, ruled by the Phrygian Prophet and the counterfeit
 “ TROY, are reached by them. From thence, (well acquainted
 “ with future events, all which HELENUS, the Son of PRIAM, had
 “ in

The Town of LEONTINI.

At the extremity of the Gulf of Catania, and near to a great Lake well stored with fish, stands the Town of Leontini: The soil about it is remarkably fat. This place was formerly the country of the Leontins. It was here that Ceres first began to teach Agriculture, and the art of sowing Corn. They

“ in his instruction foretold them of,) they entered into SICANI,
 “ [SICILY.] This runs into the Sea with three points; of which,
 “ PACHYNOS is towards the watry South: LILYBÆON is exposed
 “ to the soft West winds: But PELOROS looks towards the BEAR,
 “ that never comes into the Sea. Under this come the Trojans, and
 “ the Fleet, with oars and a favourable current; about night, makes
 “ the Zanclean-Sand, or Shore, (the Shore of MESSINA:) SCILLA
 “ infests the right side, and the restless CHARYBDIS the left: This
 “ swallows up Ships, and throws them up again, after it has swept
 “ them down: The other has her black belly surrounded with
 “ savage dogs, having the face of a Virgin: And if the Poets have
 “ not left us all things involved in fiction, she was for some time a
 “ Virgin: Many lovers courted her; which being rejected, she went
 “ to

They show strangers the Meadows of Leon-
tini ; where they assert that Hercules fed his
Oxen. And at some distance from the
Meadows, near the Sea-shore, the place
where * Cacus the Cyclops had his Cave.

The

* CACUS was a base rogue. He stole HERCULES'S Oxen ; and
least their track, or mark of their feet should discover the repository
of his thefts, he dragged them backwards by the tail into his cave.
HERCULES happened to pass by that place, and hearing the lowing
of the cattle in the cavern, he broke open the doors, seized the
Villain, and put him to death.

The Monster spewing fruitless flames, he found :

He squeez'd his throat, he wreath'd his neck around ;

And in a knot his crippled members bound !

Then from the sockets tore his burning eyes :

Roll'd on a heap the breathless robber lies. VIRG. ÆN.

“ to the Nymphs of the Sea, (being very acceptable to the Nymphs
“ of the Sea,) and related to them the baffled amours of the young
“ fellows : Whom, whilst GALATEA gives her hair to comb, fetch-
“ ing some sighs, she speaks to her in such words as these ; ‘ Yet, O
“ young Lady, a race of Men not savage, courts you ; and as you
“ do, you may deny them, without any mischief ensuing. But I,
“ whose father is NEREUS, whom the green DORIS brought forth,
“ who am guarded too by a croud of sisters, could not escape the
“ amorous addresses of a Cyclops, but through the waves :’ But
“ tears

The Town of AUGUSTUS.

AUGUSTUS Town is within six miles of Leontini, and built upon the point of a promontory by the Emperor Frederick the Second upon the ground of the ancient Megara. It has a Port which is very secure and large; with the Tower of Limace to serve it for a Light-House. The

“tears hindered her voice, as she was speaking: Which after the
 “young Lady had wiped off with her Marble thumb, and comforted
 “the Goddess: ‘Tell me, O dearest, said she, and do not conceal
 “from me (I am faithful to you,) the cause of your grief.’ The
 “NEREIUS replied upon the daughter of CRATOIS in these words:
 “‘ACIS was begotten of FAUN and the Nymph SYMÆTHUS, the
 “great pleasure of his father and mother, yet a greater pleasure of
 “mine; for the beautiful youth had joined me alone to him: And
 “having passed twice eight birth-days, he had marked his tender
 “chaps with a dubious down. I pursued him, and the Cyclops me,
 “without end. Nor can I tell you, if you ask me, whether the
 “hatred of the Cyclops, or the love of ACIS was strongest in me:
 “both were equal. O gentle Venus! how great is the power of
 “thy dominion! Well, that savage (and to be dreaded by the woods
 “them-

The Streets of this Town are narrow, only it has a handsome Square in the middle of it, and a fountain. But the Water at Augustus, (which is a great loss to it,) is good for nothing. The Jacobin Church merits admiration, with its fine Marble Tombs. The last Earthquake has thrown every thing up-side-down in this City, as well as in Leontini: And generally in all the places belonging to the Valley of Noto. They manufacture considerable quantities of Sugar in the Town of Augustus. The

“ themselves, and seen by no stranger, but to his destruction, and
“ a despiser of great OLYMPUS with the Gods,) feels what love is:
“ And seized with a passionate desire of me, burns, forgetting his
“ cattle and his caves. Now thou hast a concern for beauty, and
“ to please others: Now POLYPHEMUS, thou comest thy stiff hair
“ with rakes; and now it pleases thee to cut thy rough beard with
“ a Sickle, and to view thy grim countenance in the water, and to
“ compose it. The love of slaughter and wildness, and that immense
“ thirst after blood, all cease; and Ships come and go safe. In the
“ mean time, TELEMUS (a Sooth-sayer, and one of the Cyclops,)
“ arriving at the Sicilian Etna, TELEMUS the Son of EURIMUS,
“ whom no Bird had ever deceived, goes to the terrible Polyphemus,
“ and said, ‘ Ulysses will take from thee that single Eye, which thou
“ hast

The Town of AUGUSTUS.

AUGUSTUS Town is within six miles of Leontini, and built upon the point of a promontory by the Emperor Frederick the Second upon the ground of the ancient Megara. It has a Port which is very secure and large; with the Tower of Limace to serve it for a Light-House. The

“ tears hindered her voice, as she was speaking: Which after the
“ young Lady had wiped off with her Marble thumb, and comforted
“ the Goddess: ‘ Tell me, O dearest, said she, and do not conceal
“ from me (I am faithful to you,) the cause of your grief.’ The
“ NEREIUS replied upon the daughter of CRATOIS in these words:
“ ‘ ACIS was begotten of FAUN and the Nymph SYMÆTHUS, the
“ great pleasure of his father and mother, yet a greater pleasure of
“ mine; for the beautiful youth had joined me alone to him: And
“ having passed twice eight birth-days, he had marked his tender
“ chaps with a dubious down. I pursued him, and the Cyclops me,
“ without end. Nor can I tell you, if you ask me, whether the
“ hatred of the Cyclops, or the love of ACIS was strongest in me:
“ both were equal. O gentle Venus! how great is the power of
“ thy dominion! Well, that savage (and to be dreaded by the woods
“ them-

The Streets of this Town are narrow, only it has a handsome Square in the middle of it, and a fountain. But the Water at Augustus, (which is a great loss to it,) is good for nothing. The Jacobin Church merits admiration, with its fine Marble Tombs. The last Earthquake has thrown every thing up-side-down in this City, as well as in Leontini: And generally in all the places belonging to the Valley of Noto. They manufacture considerable quantities of Sugar in the Town of Augustus. The

“ themselves, and seen by no stranger, but to his destruction, and
“ a despiser of great OLYMPUS with the Gods,) feels what love is:
“ And seized with a passionate desire of me, burns, forgetting his
“ cattle and his caves. Now thou hast a concern for beauty, and
“ to please others: Now POLYPHEMUS, thou combest thy stiff hair
“ with rakes; and now it pleases thee to cut thy rough beard with
“ a Sickle, and to view thy grim countenance in the water, and to
“ compose it. The love of slaughter and wildness, and that immense
“ thirst after blood, all cease; and Ships come and go safe. In the
“ mean time, TELEMUS (a Sooth-sayer, and one of the Cyclops,)
“ arriving at the Sicilian Etna, TELEMUS the Son of EURIMUS,
“ whom no Bird had ever deceived, goes to the terrible Polyphemus,
“ and said, ‘ Ulysses will take from thee that single Eye, which thou
“ hast

The Town of SYRACUSE.

The Town of Catania is twenty miles from Augustus, and Augustus is the same distance from Syracuse. This last place is an hundred miles from the City of Messina.

SYRA-

“hast in the middle of thy forehead.” He laughed, and said, ‘Thou
 “art deceived, O thou foolishlest of all Prophets: Another hath
 “already seized this Eye.’ Thus he flights him, giving him notice
 “of what was true, in vain: And he either burdens the Shore, or
 “stalking along with huge strides, or returns weary to his dusky
 “Cave. A hill in the form of a wedge, runs out with a long point
 “into the Sea: the water of the Main flows about both sides of it.
 “The wild Cyclops ascends thither, and sat in the middle of it.
 “His wool-bearing cattle followed, tho’ no body led them: Before
 “whose feet, after the Pine-tree, which afforded him the use of a
 “Staff, was laid, fit to bear a sail-yard, and his Pipe, made up of a
 “hundred reeds, was taken; all the mountains rung with the whif-
 “ling of the Shepherd; the waters rung. I lurking within a rock,
 “and lying in the bosom of my dear ACIS, heard with my ears, at
 “a distance, such words as these: and what I heard, I marked in
 “my mind. ‘O Galatea, fairer than the white snow, privet, more
 “florid than the meadows, taller than the long alder-tree, brighter
 “than

SYRACUSE was formerly the best peopled, and the most powerful Town in all the Island of Sicily. And it was the residence of Kings Gelo, Geron, Dionysius the Tyrant, and Agathocles. It surpassed in greatness and elegance, the Town of Athens, or any other Town of that time: Or it was rather four Towns joined into one City. They were formerly called the Towns of Tiche, Acradina, Noapolis, and Ortigia. This last quarter of Syracuse is built upon a rock into
the

“ than glass, wantoner than a tender kid; smoother than the shells
 “ worn so by the continual playing of the Sea upon them; more
 “ agreeable than the Winter’s Sun, or the Summer’s shade; more
 “ noble than Apples, more conspicuous than a tall Plane-tree, more
 “ shining than ice, more sweet than ripe Grapes, softer too than
 “ Swan’s feathers, and curdled milk; and if thou dost not fly me,
 “ more beautiful than a watered Garden. And yet thou, the same
 “ GALATEA, art more wild than Cows not broke to the yoke,
 “ harder than an aged Oak, more deceitful than the waters, more
 “ tough than Sallow-twigs, and White Vines; more immoveable
 “ than these rocks, more violent than a river, more proud than a
 “ Peacock, when commanded; more furious than fire, rougher than
 “ thistles; more outrageous than a Bear with young, deafer than
 “ the

the Sea, forming an Island which is joined to the main-land by a Draw-Bridge ; and is the only part of Syracuse now remaining. And even that same part of it, is in a great measure destroyed : For a terrible Earthquake they had in the year 1693. tumbled down all the buildings and fine fortifications of Syracuse ; which were by far the best and strongest in Sicily.

A great mortality followed upon the back of this calamity, but the country is so abundantly

“ the Seas, and fiercer than a snake, when trode upon. And, what
“ especially I wish I could take from thee, not only swifter in flight
“ than a Deer, when driven along by the loud cries of the Dogs ;
“ but even than the winds, and the swift air. But if you knew me
“ well, you would be sorry you had fled from me ; and you would
“ blame your own delays ; and would take pains to keep me. I
“ have a part of a Mountain for my Cave, hanging with a stone in
“ its natural condition ; in which the Sun is not felt in the midst of
“ Summer ; nor is the Winter felt there : I have Apples that weigh
“ down the boughs : I have Grapes like gold, upon tall Vines : I
“ have purple Grapes too ; and we keep both these and the other
“ for thee. Thou shalt gather with thy own hands soft Straw-
“ ber-

antly fertile, that the few inhabitants who remained alive, could not resolve to go in quest of a new settlement.

SYRACUSE has a good ample Port sheltered by the Capo Olivieri, called by the ancient, Promontorium Plemmirium. This City was very famous in the time of the Greeks, and of the Romans; as well as the

I

Foun-

“ berries growing under the shade of a Wood, and wild Cherries in
“ Autumn; and Plumbs, not only such as are livid with black juice,
“ but of the best kind too, and imitating new Wax. Nor if I am
“ your husband, will there be wanting to you Chestnuts, nor the
“ fruit of the Strawberry-tree; every Tree shall be at your service.
“ All these cattle are mine, and many more stroll about in the
“ vallies. The woods cover many more, many more are penned up
“ in my Caves; nor, perhaps if you should ask me, can I tell how
“ many there are. It is the sign of a poor man to number his cattle.
“ Trust not me at all for the commendation of them: you may see
“ yourself in person, now they can hardly support upon their legs
“ their stretched dugs. There are too a small breed of Lambs in
“ warm sheepfolds. There are too of the same age, Kids in other
“ folds. I have always milk as white as snow: Part of it is kept to
“ be drunk; part of it liquid earning hardens. Nor will easy dainties,
“ and vulgar presents, only fall to you; as wild Deer, and
“ Hares,

Fountain of * Arethusa, which issues from a rock by the Sea-side, and pretty near the Walls of the Town. They assure us that this Fountain has its source in Elide, or Ellis, in
Pele-

* ARETHUSA was one of DIANA's Nymphs: Her virtue was equal to her beauty. The sweetness of the place tempted her to cool herself in the waters of a clear river: ALPHEUS the God of the river, took upon him the shape of a man, and came up out of the water: He first saluted her with kind words, and then drew near to her; but away she flies, he follows her; and when he had almost overtaken her, she was dissolved into a fountain, by the assistance of DIANA, whom she implored. ALPHEUS then resumed his former shape of water, intending to mix his stream with her water, but in vain: For ARETHUSA continues her flight, and by a passage through a cavity of the Earth, she goes under ground and sea into SICILY. ALPHEUS follows by the like subterraneous cavity, till he marries his stream to those of ARETHUSA in that Island.

The River his beloved waters knew;
And putting off th' assumed shape of man,
Resumes his own, and in current ran. OVID. Met. V.

"Hares, and She-Goats, or a pair of Pigeons, or a nest taken from
"the top of a tree: I have found on the top of the Mountains
"twin cubs of a shaggy Bear to play with, so like one-another, that
"you can hardly distinguish them. I have found them, and said,
"We will keep them for our Mistress. Do but now put thy pretty
"head

Peleponese; and that it passes under the Sea, and comes out from a rock upon the shore, near the Walls of Syracuse.

The Cathedral Church of Syracuse, was at first a Temple of Diana; and the Island of Ortigia, which signifies the Isle of Quails, was dedicated to that Goddess. The deplorable condition to which the last Earthquake

“ head out of the green Sea: Now GALATEA, come, and do not
 “ flight my presents. Certainly I know myself, and saw myself
 “ lately in a resemblance of clear water; and my appearance pleased
 “ me, when I saw it. Behold how big I am! JUPITER in Heaven
 “ is not greater than this body of mine: for you used to say, that one
 “ JUPITER (I know not who,) reigns there. Plenty of hair hangs
 “ over my grave face, and over-shades my shoulders like a grove.
 “ And think it not any deformity, that my body is thick set with
 “ bristly hair. A tree is ugly without leaves; a Horse is disagreeable
 “ unless a mane covers his yellow neck; Feathers cover Birds; Wool
 “ is an ornament to Sheep. A beard and rough hair upon their
 “ bodies, become men. I have but one Eye in the middle of my
 “ forehead, but like a large buckler. What, does not the great Sun
 “ see all these things from Heaven. Yet the Sun has but one Eye.
 “ Add too, that my father reigns in your Sea, I give you him for
 “ your father-in-law. Only pity me, and hear the prayers of your
 “ sup-

quake has reduced this miserable place, renders it needless to trouble the reader with any further description of it: For nothing remained entire in all the Town, except a part of the Capuchins' Convent.

SYRA-

“suppliant: for to you alone we yield. And I, who despise
 “JUPITER, and Heaven, and the piercing thunder: fear thee, O
 “NEREID: thy anger is more dismal than thunder: and I should
 “be more patient under this slight of me, if you avoided all men.
 “But why do you refuse a Cyclops, and love ACIS; and prefer
 “ACIS before my embraces? You let him please himself, and let him
 “please you too, GALATEA; which I could wish he did not. Let
 “but an opportunity be given me of meeting with him, he shall find
 “that I have strength answerable to so great a body. I will pull
 “out his living bowels, and scatter his torn members through the
 “field, and through your waters, so let him mix with you. For I
 “am burnt, my injured flame rages more furiously; and I seem to
 “carry Etna from its seat, with all its flames in my breast: nor yet
 “are you moved at it, GALATEA.’ Having complained in this
 “manner to no purpose, (for I saw all,) he rises; and like a mad
 “bull when his cow is taken from him, he cannot stand still; and
 “wanders through the woods and well-known forests: when the
 “Savage spies me, and ACIS not thinking of him, and fearing no
 “such thing; and cries out, I see him: and I will take care this shall
 “be the last agreement for your enjoyment of one another.’ And
 “that voice of his was as great as an angry Cyclops ought to have.
 “ETNA trembled with his cry. But I being frightened, dive under
 “the

SYRACUSE would require the resurrection of Archimedes, who was so renowned for his knowledge in Mathematics, to rear up again the Edifices which he so long and so wonderfully defended, against the attacks of the Roman Fleet, commanded by the Consul Marcellus.

There

“ the neighbouring Sea. The Symæthian hero had turned, and
“ given his back to flight; and said, Bring me help, O GALATEA;
“ bring me help, O ye parents, and admit me ready to perish within
“ your Kingdom.’ The Cyclops pursues him, and casts a great mass
“ torn from a mountain; and tho’ but the extreme corner of the
“ stone came to him, yet it buried ACIS entirely. But we, which
“ was all that was allowed to be done by the fates, took care that
“ ACIS should assume his grand father’s strength. Red blood run
“ from the massy stone, and in a little time the redness began to
“ vanish; and first it becomes the colour of a river mudded with a
“ shower, and is cleared after some time. Then the mass that was
“ thrown, gapes; and a lively and tall reed rises through the chinks;
“ and the hollow mouth of the stone rattles with water bubbling
“ out: And a wonderful thing it was; the young man suddenly
“ enclosed up to the middle of the belly with reeds, turned round
“ into new horns (for so the Poets call the winding of a river horns)
“ who, but that he was bigger, but that he was green all his face
“ over, was ACIS still. But ACIS was turned into a river.”

The

There is to be seen within a mile of Syracuse, the remains of an Aqueduc, cut out of a rock, with seats for the spectators. And hard by it, is the vast and spacious Grotto of Dionysius the Tyrant: Where they make now great quantities of Saltpetre. Here is likewise a subterraneous City cut into an immense large solid rock; with its Palaces, other Edifices, Streets, and Squares. Dionysius

The Prophecy of TELEMUS, the son of EURIMUS, whom the flight of Birds never deceived, was accomplished after this manner; When ULYSSES departed from TROY to return home, he sailed backwards and forwards twenty years, by contrary winds and bad weather, which prevented him from coming home. Upon the coast of SICILY he evaded the murdering music of the SIRENS, which allured all the men that ever heard them to destruction; by causing himself to be bound to the mast of his ship, and ordering his companions to stop their ears with wax: By this invention he got free from their snares, as ORPHEUS did by the music of his harp, and singing the praises of the Gods. ULYSSES and his ship-mates landed in SICILY, where the monstrous Giant and Shepherd POLYPHEMUS drew four of ULYSSES's companions into his den, and devoured them. He thought too that the rest of ULYSSES's servants could not escape his voracious appetite; and always despising the Prophecy of TELEMUS the son of EURIMUS. ULYSSES made him drunk with Wine, and while he fell asleep upon the floor of his spacious

and

thus the Tyrant past with his Courtiers the excessive heat of Summer in this rare and singular place. He also retired into it, when there was any popular insurrection against him

and awful den, ULYSSES with a firebrand quite put out his sight, and escaped. VIRGIL's Third Æneid takes particular notice of it:

The joints of slaughter'd wretches are his food !
And for his Wine he quaffs the steaming blood !
These eyes beheld when with his spacious hand
He seiz'd two captives of our Grecian band ;
Stretch'd on his back, he dash'd against the stones
Their broken bodies, and the crackling bones.
With spouting blood the purple pavement swims,
While the dire glutton grinds the trembling limbs !
Not unreveng'd ULYSSES bore their fate,—
Nor thoughtless of his own unhappy state :
For gorg'd with flesh, and drunk with human Wine,
Whilst fast asleep the Giant lay supine ;
Snoring aloud, and belching from his maw
His undigested foam and morsels raw ;
We pray, we cast the lots ; and then surround
The monstrous body, stretch'd along the ground :
Each, as he could approach him, lends a hand
To bore his eye-ball with a flaming brand :
Beneath his frowning forehead lay his eye,
For only one did this vast frame supply ;
But that a globe so large, his front it fill'd,
Like the Sun-disk, or like the Grecian shield.

him, upon account of his * cruelties. It is surprising how a Prince could be able to accomplish in his life-time, a work so wonderful, and so laborious that it would seem to require ages to finish it.

There is an Hermitage dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, at the entrance of this subterraneous City; but the last Earthquake has destroyed the Grotto so much, that it is not safe to go into it, owing to pieces of the rock falling at times from the roof: Which has almost debarred any access to the underground Streets of this strange Town.

Near to the Minime's Convent, may be seen short trunks of very thick Marble Columns, that were in a Temple of Apollo,
which

* As the felicity of friendship cannot be estimated beyond its precious value, the History of DAMON and PHYTHIAS may perhaps deserve a place here: which is as follows.

which stood formerly in that same place. The pillars that remained entire from the Earthquake, were transported to Rome, and placed in the Pantheon of Agrippa.

In short, if Syracuse was not so remote, Travellers might have more pleasure to view all the Antiquities of it, than those of Rome, Naples, or Pouzzol.

The Wine of Syracuse excells in strength and quality, the Muscat Wine of Frontignan, the Wine of Greece, or the Lachryma Wine of Naples. K The

When DAMON was sentenced by DIONYSIUS the Tyrant of SYRACUSE, to die on such a day; he prayed permission, in the interim, to retire to his own Country, to set the affairs of his disconsolate family in order. This the Tyrant intended most peremptorily to refuse, by granting it, as he conceived, on the impossible conditions of his procuring some one to remain as hostage for his return, under equal forfeiture of life. PHYTHIAS heard the conditions, and did not wait an application on the part of DAMON: He instantly offered himself to durance in the place of his friend; and DAMON was accordingly set at liberty. The King and all his Court were astonished at the action, as they could not account for it on any allowed principles. Self-interest, in their judgment, was the sole mover of human affairs;

The Town of Noto.

From Syracuse, (now called by the Natives Saragass,) to the Cap of Passaro, formerly Promontorium Pachinum, is forty miles. This Cap was rent by an Earthquake from the Continent of Sicily; and is now an Island where there is a small Fort, and the residence of some Fishermen. The

affairs; and they looked on Virtue, Friendship, Benevolence, Love of Country, and the like, as terms invented by the wise to impose upon the weak. They therefore imputed this act of PHYTHIAS to the extravagance of his folly, to the defect of head, merely, and no way to any virtue or good quality of heart. When the day of the destined execution drew near, the Tyrant had the curiosity to visit PHYTHIAS in his dungeon. Having reproached him for the romantic stupidity of his conduct; and rallied him some time on his madness in presuming that DAMON, by his return, would prove as great a fool as himself. My Lord, said PHYTHIAS with a firm voice and noble aspect, I would it were possible that I might suffer a thousand deaths, rather than my friend should fail in any article of his honour. He cannot fail therein, my Lord. I am as confident
of

The City of Noto, and Capital of the Valley of that name, is within the land and at the distance of some miles from the Sea: It was in ancient times called Neetum.

The Town of Motia, formerly Modica, is within a few miles of Noto, and lies upon the South-shore of Sicily; and opposite to the Continent of Africa. All

of his virtue as I am of my own existence. But, I pray, I beseech the Gods to preserve the life and integrity of my DAMON together. Oppose him ye winds! prevent the eagerness and impatience of his honourable endeavours! and suffer him not to arrive till by my death I have redeemed a life a thousand times of more consequence, more estimation than my own, more estimable to his lovely wife, to his precious little innocents, to his friends, to his country. Oh! leave me not to die the worst of deaths in my DAMON!

DIONYSIUS was confounded, and awed by the dignity of these sentiments, and by the manner (still more sentimental,) in which they were uttered; he felt his heart struck with a slight sense of invading truth, but it served rather to perplex than to undeceive him. He hesitated he would have spoken, but he looked down, and retired in silence. The fatal day arrived, PHYTHIAS was brought forth, and walked amidst the guard, with a serious but satisfied air, to the place of execution. DIONYSIUS was already there. He was
exalt-

All the way from the Cap of Passaro, to the Cap of Marsalla, which is the space of an hundred and eighty miles, is full of Cities and Market-Towns.

The inhabitants are originally Greeks; and are still much frequented by foreign Merchants, with whom they carry on a brisk trade, particularly in Corn at Camarano, or Camarino, upon the river Frascolari olim Oanus, at Terra Nova, formerly Heraclea, and at Alicata, anciently called Gela. All the Country round about this last place, is called Olim Campi Geoli: And it produces an immense quantity of grain. The

exalted on a moving throne that was drawn by six white horses, and sat pensive and attentive to the demeanour of the prisoner. **PHYTHIAS** came. He vaulted lightly on the scaffold; and beholding for some time the apparatus of his death, he turned with a pleased countenance, and addressed the assembly. "My prayers are heard, he cried, the Gods are propitious! You know, my friends, that the winds have been contrary till yesterday. **DAMON** could not come, he could not conquer impossibilities; he will be here to-morrow; and the blood which is shed to-day shall have ransomed the

the

The TOWN of AGRIGENTO, Or, AGRIGENTI.

The most famous place in all that country, and which might be compared, or is equal to Syracuse; was Agrigentum, which the Greeks called Agragas, and the present people call it Girgenti. It was there that Phalaris exercised for a long time his tyranny: for the Kingdom of Sicily was the mother of tyrants.

the life of my friend. Oh, could I erase from your bosoms every mean suspicion of the honour of the man for whom I am about to suffer, I should go to my death even as I would go to my bridal. Be it sufficient in the mean time, that my friend will be found noble, that his truth is unimpeachable, that he will speedily approve it, that he is now on his way, hurrying on accusing himself, the adverse elements, and the Gods. But I hasten to prevent his speed; executioner to your office!" As he pronounced the last words, a buzz began to arise among the remotest of the people. A distant voice was heard. The croud caught the words; and stop, stop the execution! was repeated by the whole assembly. A man came at full speed.

tyrants. But though the Sicilian Kings governed despotically, they were not so cruel as the Neros, and Domitians of Rome. Nor was the word Tyrant taken in such a bad sense originally, as now a-days; for the signification of a Tyrant at that time, was no more than a King. The

speed. The throng gave way to his approach. He was mounted on a Steed of foam. In an instant he was off his Horse, on the scaffold, and held PHYTHIAS straitly embraced. You are safe, he cried, you are safe, my friend, my beloved; the Gods be praised, you are safe, and I am delivered from the anguish of those reproaches which I gave myself, for having endangered a life so much dearer than my own. Pale, cold, and half speechless in the arms of his DAMON, PHYTHIAS replied in broken accents!—Fatal haste!—cruel impatience!—What envious—powers have wrought impossibilities in your favour?—But I will not be wholly disappointed; and since I cannot die to save, I will not survive you.

DIONYSIUS heard, beheld, and considered all with astonishment. His heart was touched; his eyes were opened; and he could no longer refuse his assent to truths so incontestibly proved by their facts. He descended from his throne. He ascended the scaffold. Live, live, ye incomparable pair! he exclaimed. Ye have borne unquestionable testimony to the existence of virtue, and that virtue equally evinces the certainty of the existence of a God to reward it. Live happy, live renowned! And, Oh form me by your precepts, as you have invited me by your example, to be worthy of the participation of so sacred a friendship.

The Sicilian Monarchs were very learned Princes. Dionysius the Tyrant sent for Plato to his Court, in order that he might benefit by Plato's divine Philosophy. And Dionysius died afterwards of joy, when he heard that his Comedies had gained the prize at the Olympic Games.

His Son was dethroned, and deprived of Royalty by Timoleon; and reduced to gain his bread at Corinth, in the obscure quality of a Schoolmaster.

Phalaris was an Author, we have still his Letters and his Orations in Greek, which was then the language of Sicily. In his time Agrigenti was so powerful, that it contained eighty hundred thousand souls. But now it is sadly depopulated, and can scarcely reckon in it six thousand souls. The present Agrigenti is upon the Sea-shore; whereas the former Town was some Miles into the country, with fine Meadows about it; and
an

an excellent breed of Horses. * Virgil speaks of them in his Third Æneid, where his Hero make the Tour of Sicily.

A fine Road which is kept in the best repair, leads from the Meadows already mentioned, to Bizenza, formerly Heracla, or the ancient Monia. From thence, and within a few Miles of it, is Sacca Olim Thermæ, so named upon the account of the warm Baths that are there. Then comes next, Terra Dellepulce, formerly Selinus. And again, the modern Town of Mazara, (which
is

* *Aparet Camarina procul, campique Geloï,
Immanisque Gela, fluvij coqnomine dicta ;
Arduus inde Agragas, ostentat Maxime longe,
Mænia Magnanimum quondum generator equorum.*

The Town of Camarina from afar we see,
And fenny lake undrain'd by fates degree :
In sight of the Geloan field we pass,
And the large walls, where mighty Gelo was,
Then Agragas, with lofty summits crown'd,
Long for the race of warlike steed renown'd.

is the Capital City of the Valley of that name) appears in sight. And lastly the Town and Cap of Marfalla, or the ancient Promontorium Lilibeum.

There are several Islands about that Cap, such as Favognano, formerly Egusa, Maretime, called in the days of yore Sacca, Lavanzo, and Olim Probantia.

The TOWN of TRAPANI.

Some small Islands called Formiche, are seen about the Cap where the Town of Trapani stands. This City is very ancient, and was formerly called Drapani. Anchises the father of Æneas, according to Virgil *, died in this place.

L

TRAPANI

* At length on shore the weary Fleet arriv'd,
Which DREPANUM's unhappy port receiv'd,
There after endless labours, often tost,
By raging storms, and driv'n on ev'ry coast:
My dear, dear father spent with age I lost.

Ease

TRAPANI has a good and safe harbour. They fish for the Tons, or Tuni, and Coral, all along the Coast of Lilibeia. Mount-Eryx is within a very short distance of the Town of Trapani, upon the top of which Mountain, * Venus had a famous Temple.

They

Ease of my cares, and solace of my pain,
 Sav'd through a thousand toils, but sav'd in vain;
 The Prophet who my future woes reveal'd,
 Yet this the greatest, and the worst conceal'd:
 And dire Celæna, whose foreboding skill,
 Denounc'd all else, was silent of this ill.

VIRG. ÆN. Book III.

N. B. The Tomb of ANCHISES is upon Mount Erix in SICILY, where he was interred by his Son and by ACESTUS.

* ERYXCINA was one of the names given to VENUS, from Mount Eryx in the Island of SICILY, where her Son ÆNEAS built a splendid Temple to her honour. Frankincense and flowers were sacrificed to VENUS: and the Myrtle was sacred to her.

This part perform'd, the Goddess flies sublime,
 To visit Paphos and her native clime,
 Where garlands, ever green, and ever fair,
 With vows, are offer'd, and with solemn pray'r:
 An hundred altars in her Temple smoke,
 A thousand bleeding hearts her pow'r invoke.

ÆN. I.

They calculate it at the distance of fifty Leagues, from Trapani in Sicily, to Tunis in Africa, where Carthage stood formerly. And Trapani is forty Miles from Palermo, by doubling the three Caps of Di Sanviro, Cap Ramo, and Cap Gallo.

There is an Arm of the Sea coming between Cap Di Sanviro, and Cap Ramo, with a Fort at the end of it, called Castel a Nare, where the ancient Ægest, Egesta, or Segetta was: So named from the numerous flocks of Goats seen there.

There is no Town or City of any importance, seen in the in-land parts of the Kingdom of Sicily, because the Island is rather mountaneous. Yet it is full of fertile dales, and a great many Market Towns and Villages which are situated upon hills or eminences. The eight following places, are to be seen in the Valley of Demona: Sta Luci, Naso, S. Philadeffe, Petraglia, Nicosia, Troina, Randaso, and Argira.

The

The Market Towns or Boroughs in the Valley of Noto, are Piazza, Calatagirone, Calatazibetta, and Castro Giovanni: This last place was formerly called Enna, or the Navel of Sicily. Enna in time of danger, or insurrections was the place of rendezvous for all the Kingdom. Here is likewise the ruins of an old Palace, said to be the residence of Ceres; upon a Lake known by the name of the Lake of Proserpine; where she was forced away by Ario King of Molosses, or according to the Poets*, by Pluto King of Hell.

Of

* The Poets relate that PLUTO seated in his chariot, arose suddenly from a Den in SICILY, and carried away Proserpine from the Fields of ENNA, situated about the middle of SICILY, where she was gathering flowers. PLUTO sunk all at once with his prize into the Earth, near SYRACUSE. In the place where he descended, a lake sprung up, &c.

Thus PLUTO seiz'd of PROSERPINE, convey'd
To HELL's tremendous gloom, th' affrighted maid:
There grimly smil'd, pleas'd with his beauteous prize:
Nor envy'd JOVE, his Sunshine, nor his skies.

Of the GOVERNMENT of S I C I L Y.

The Parliament of Sicily has an extensive power, and authority. The Viceroy cannot tax the People, nor ask any free gift, which they usually give every third year to the King, without the consent of Parliament. The Sicilians do not admit of the least alteration in the affairs of the State, without the universal Voice of the Kingdom; which is granted by a National Senate, or Parliament, composed of three ranks of Men, called by the Sicilians, the three Arms of the Kingdom. The first of these are the Prelates, who are received Members of Parliament, whether their Benefices are great or small: and these are called the Ecclesiastical Arm.

The

Next to the Prelates, are all the Barons, who compose the Military Arm. And a Procurator is sent to Parliament by every part of the King's lands in Sicily; which forms an Assembly of Men called the Noble Arm, or the Arm of Regality.

The Viceroy issues out Letters, or Writs, to assemble the Parliament against a certain day, and at an appointed place. Where being met, and the Viceroy seated upon a Royal Throne; he briefly declares to them the business which had moved him to call them together. And then he proceeds to lay before them, whatever things he has to demand of them. The Viceroy's speech being ended, the first Prelate stands up and says; That the Speech from the Throne has been heard; and that no time shall be lost to give it a proper answer. After this they adjourn, and they name three places, where the Three Arms meet separately, and where they chuse seven Members from every Arm,
to

to treat of affairs, and to correspond with the three Assemblies, or Arms of Parliament, in order to know wherein they agree, or differ in sentiments.

The Town of Messina has a greater sway in matters of State, than any other City in the Kingdom, by reason of the many privileges enjoyed by the Messinians. The goodness of the Harbour of Messina, and happy situation for trade, with the opulence of the Citizens; all which have contributed to render the Messinians a People of great weight in the ballance of State. When any storm happens to rise against the Viceroy, the tempest begins always at Messina.

After the Parliament of Sicily, the distribution of Justice is regulated over all the Island by three Sovereign Courts, called the Grand Court, the Court of Conscience, and the Domain Court.

The

The Grand Court is composed of a President, and King's Advocate, who are for life. And six Judges, who are elected every two years: three of them judge in criminal cases, and three in civil affairs. And at the end of the first year of their election, the three civil Judges become criminal: And the three criminal Judges become civil.

The Court of Conscience has a Regent for life, and two Judges. The third Sovereign Court, called the Domain, or Patrimonial Court, is like the Camera at Rome, having a President, a Conservator, and a Protector of the Domain; with four chief Clerks.

All the Office-bearers of these Courts must be natives of Sicily, or married to Sicilian Women, except the Conservator and the Protector of the Domain, who may be strangers.

There

There are other inferior Courts held by Magistrates, who are sent in to the three Vallies of Sicily to administer justice, particularly in criminal Cases, and these itinerant Judges are called Captains of Arms.

MESSINA, and Palermo have independant Courts, to whom the King has granted great authority within their own jurisdiction : And from whence there is no appeal.

It would tire the reader to give here a full and distinct account of the Courts of Chancery, and Exchequer, the Spiritual Courts, &c. Therefore they as well as other particulars of the Laws of Sicily, are omitted, as being no ways necessary nor entertaining to the reader.

M

A

A SHORT
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
ISLAND AND KINGDOM
OF
SARDINIA.

SARDINIA lies eight Miles South from the Island of Corfica. It has the Tuscan Sea to the East, the African Sea to the South, and is bounded by the Sardinian Sea to the West.

The length of it, is two hundred and forty Miles; ninety Miles in breadth; and the circumference of it, is five hundred Miles.

The

A DESCRIPTION OF SARDINIA. 91

The Island of Sardinia, is in shape like the sole of a shoe. It is divided into two Provinces, the first is called Capo Lugodoro, the second is e Capa Cagliari. It gives a Royal Title to the Duke of Savoy, King of Sardinia. It was formerly annexed to the Crown of Spain; but by the Peace of Utretch, it was given to the Emperor, and in the year 1719, it was ceded to the House of Savoy. The King of Sardinia governs it by his Lieutenant or Viceroy, who resides at Cagliari, which Town is situated at the end of a Bay upon the South side of the Island.

This Town is divided into four quarters, to wit, Cagliari, Ville neuve, Gliapoli, and Stampax. It has many Towers, and some of them built with white Marble, such as that of St. Brancas, the Elephant's Tower, &c.

The King's Lieutenant, or Viceroy's Palace is passable; but has nothing curious or rare about

92 A SHORT DESCRIPTION

about it. The Viceroy's Guards are not numerous, and he has only four Galleys to defend the Coast.

The Tribunals of Sardinia assemble at Cagliari, in the public Palace; where they practise the Law in the Arragonese language. The Cathedral of Cagliari, is an old spacious building, but it is not equal in richness, nor elegance to those of Sicily.

The Air of Sardinia, from the many marshes and morasses, in the greatest part of the Island, is very bad: And in the heat of Summer subject to the plague.

That part of the Country about e Capo Cagliari, is mountainous, better aired, and more conducive to health than any other part of the Island.

The Sardinians have not a drop of good water in all the kingdom: where it seldom rains.

rains. Every House there has a Cistern to receive the Winter rain, which is consumed in Summer.

The South wind, and thick air from the marshes, is some times the cause of much mortality; and the reason assigned why the Country is so thinly peopled.

There are many hot Baths here, and the Island in general is very fertile in Corn, Wine, and Olives: And finally, in every kind of fruit. They likewise rear up great herds of Cattle. They have Gold and Silver Mines; but there is a little Insect found here, called Solifuges, which is a kind of Spider, and whose bite is venomous, who are so numerous, and so frequently found in the said Mines, that the Sardinians dare not dig for the treasures which their country freely offers to them, owing to these diminutive insects. Sardinia has Salt Mines: the Coast round it is very ill stored with Fish: Coral is the only fishing of any account belonging to this Island.

They

They have in the Mountains what is no where else in Europe, numerous herds of remarkable animals called Muffles, Muffioni, or Muscrions: Strabo calls them Musmones. Their hair is like that of a Deer: And they have horns like a Ram. They spring from rock to rock with an amazing agility, and are as swift as Bucks, or Deers. Their flesh is exceeding good to eat, and their skins when dressed, are as fine as any Shambo, of which the natives of Sardinia make a great trade with the Italians, and other strangers. They kill four or five thousand of these Muscrions at one hunting match: And as they have not people enough to eat them, the carcases after the skins are taken off, are allowed to rot upon the ground, which never fails to give an additional corruption to the bad air of the country.

The Sardinian Horses are small, but high spirited, and bear a great deal of fatigue. They have Dogs in this Country of a most extraordinary size. And Rats are so plenty
at

at Cagliari; that the King has made a law, whereby every proprietor or possessor of a House, is obliged to keep as many Cats as there are rooms in his House.

There is an herb which grows in Sardinia called Rainuncule, or Sardonicque; it contracts to death the nerves of those who eat it, and its operation is so singular, that the dying person appears laughing to his final exit.

The first inhabitants of the Kingdom and Island of Sardinia, were subjected by the Carthagenians. They were afterwards conquered by the Romans. Cato the Cenfor governed Sardinia during his Pretorship, with great integrity: And established many good laws. After the decline of the Roman Empire, the Sarazens seized upon Sardinia, and kept possession of it until they were drove out of it, by a people from Arragon and Spain.

Cagliari,

Cagliari, Algers, and Castelarragonefe, are the best fortified Towns in this Island. The other Towns of note here, but whose Fortifications are not tenable; are, Sulo, Dolie, Puello, Saffaris, Soro, Planato, Ampurio, Giface, Caftre, Othac, Bofane, Alboro, St. Juſte, Oriſtagne, and Orefie.

There are ſeveral ſmall Iſlands near the Coaſt of Sardinia, ſuch as Aſinaria, which is thirty miles in circumference, mountaineous and full of game: the Iſland of St. Peter, famous for Falcons; the Iſle of St. Antioch; the Cow-Iſland, and the Bull-Iſland, &c.

The Sardinians by the ardent heat of Summer, are of a brown ſwarthy ſun-burnt complexion : They are a ſtrong robuſt People, though ſimple and ſomewhat primitive in their manners and cuſtoms: And are given to hunting and idleneſs more than a laborious life.

Their

Their Language may be called a jargon, but they speak the Arragonefe, which is a corruption of the Spanish Tongue, at the Viceroy's Court.

Some Historians accuse them of Cruelty, but they live in great friendship and harmony among themselves: And are extremely civil to strangers. There are three Archbishops, and sixteen Bishops in this Island, where they have the Inquisition as well as in Sicily, and in all the Roman-Catholic Countries bordering upon Africa, or where the Mahometan Profession prevails; except in the Republic of Venice, where they allow Jews and Turks to reside, provided that they give no offence to the laws of the Common-wealth.

N

A N

AN
APPENDIX.



HISTORIANS have remarked, that Islanders in general, are more uncultivated than Men that live upon a Continent. The reason they assign for this Observation, is, That those who are confined by the Sea to an Island, live among themselves, and seldom or never converse with Foreigners, whom they rarely admit to be upon an equality with the Natives, and whose dress, language, laws, and manners they generally despise. Prejudice persuades them, that whatever is contrary to the practice and customs of their own Island, should be considered as ridiculous and absurd.

In mistaken notions of this kind, Travelers are to blame, for giving bad opinions, or false informations. It is to be regretted that Youths of family and fortune, who are
sent

sent to make the Tour of Europe; will view foreign Countries in a partial light; and when they return home from their Travels, they are too liable to make erroneous and false reports of the places they have been in: But these Observations are not general.

According to History and tradition, Sicily is an Island that has been as early frequented as any Country in the World: Perhaps civilization prevailed in it sooner than in any other part of Europe. * They have found some hundred years ago, Inscriptions among old ruins in Palermo, which show, that a great many Hebrews and Phenicians came to it in the days of Isaac son of Abraham.

† Though Mr Brydone seems to have quarrelled in Sicily with the Mother of our Saviour, whom he calls in Effigie a Venus, or a Queen of Hell; [Proserpine:] battled with

* See the BISHOP of LUCERA, upon the ANTIQUITIES of SICILY.

† LETTER VIII. p. 74. & 75.

with the Real Presence, had an uproar with all the Statues and Saints of Sicily; and plunged the whole Kingdom in the old Superstition of Heathen Idolatry. Though he gives no quarter to any of their Religious Rites and Mysteries, except Original Sin, the Doctrine of the blessed Trinity, and the Incarnation: Yet he extolls to the skies the reception he found there; which is a specimen of their ancient hospitality and kindness to strangers.

The Island or small Nation of Malta, which is sixty Miles from the Cap of Passaro in Sicily, may well be excepted from the epithets of wild and proud Islanders. A stranger meets with as much universal politeness and hospitality in Malta, as in any Country in Europe. The inhabitants of that admirably well governed State, are composed of different Nations, who live entirely free from every savage partiality, or mean national reflections: And may with propriety be called, The Citizens of the World.

Mr Brydone in his Tour to Malta, speaks of them as follows. “ * Notwithstanding of the supposed bigotry of the Maltese, the spirit of Toleration is so strong, that a Mosque has been lately built for their sworn enemies the Turks. Here the poor slaves are allowed to enjoy their Religion in peace. It happened lately that some idle Boys disturbed them during their Service : They were immediately sent to Prison, and severely punished.

“ This Institution, which is a strange compound of the Military and Ecclesiastic, has now subsisted for near Seven Hundred Years : And though, I believe, one of the first-born, has long survived every other Child of Chivalry. It possesses great riches in most of the Catholic countries in Europe ; and did so in England too, before the time of Henry the Eighth ; but that capricious tyrant did not chuse that any

“ In-

* LETTER XVI. p. 171. & 175.

“ Institution, howe’er ancient or respected,
“ should remain in his Dominions, that had
“ any doubt of his supremacy and infallibi-
“ lity; he therefore seized on their possessions,
“ at the same time that he enriched himself
“ by the plunder of the Church. It was in
“ vain for them to plead that they were
“ rather a Military than an Ecclesiastic Order,
“ and by their valour had been of great ser-
“ vice to Europe, in their Wars against the
“ Infidels: It was not agreeable to his system
“ ever to hear a reason for any thing; and
“ no person could possibly be right, that
“ was capable of supposing that the King
“ could be wrong.”

But to return to the Sardinians, they are not so lazy and indolent, as some Historians represent them to be. We find upwards of a thousand Artificers and day-labourers going yearly from the Kingdom of Sardinia to Corsica, which is an Island surrounded with too powerful neighbours, and so frequently oppressed with Wars, and sometimes with

fac-

factions among themselves; that they never yet had it in their power to be a free people, and shine in the World like other refined Nations in Europe.

The Sardinians send great quantities of Corn to Malta; they carry on a Trade with Majorca, Sicily, and Corfica. They sell Fruit, Wine, Skins, Horses, &c. to the Italians, and to other Countries bordering upon the Mediterranean.

When the King of Spain was Sovereign of Sardinia, the Revenues he received from thence, amounted to Three Hundred Thousand Crowns; out of which sum, he laid out the Appointments or Civil List of the Viceroy, and maintained four Galleys, with the reparation of Garrisons. And the Troops that he had there, consisted of eight hundred Spaniards, eight or ten thousand Militia, and some light Horse.

His

His Most Catholic Majesty, at that time, was in possession of many Territories on both sides of the Globe. And when he Wrote to any foreign Prince, his lofty and high-flown Titles were as follows.---Philip by the Grace of God King of Spain, of Castille, of Leo, of Arragon, of Navarre, Jerusalem, Naples, Majorca, Minorca, Sardinia, and of the East India Islands, and of the Continent, King of the Ocean, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy, of Lothier, of Brabant, of Luxembourg, of Gueldre, of Milan, Earl of Flanders, of Artois, of Hainault, of Holland, Zeland, Namur, Zutphen, Marquis of the Empire, Lord of Frise, of Saline, of Machline, of Utrecht, of Overissels, of Grœningen, Great Lord of Asia and Africa *.

* When FRANCIS the First of FRANCE, received a Letter from the Emperor CHARLES the Fifth, loaded with all these mighty Titles; he laughed heartily at it: And in his Answer to CHARLES, he designed himself, LORD of GENTILLY, which is a small Village near to PARIS.

T H E E N D.



THE SUPPLEMENT.

THERE cannot be a more difficult task, than to find out a just description of a foreign Country, owing to the want of attention, the Language, or curiosity in Travellers. And allowing that they possess all these qualifications, they cannot divest themselves of a most powerful prejudice in favours of their own Country. They condemn and ridicule whatever Laws, Customs or Manners they see established elsewhere, contrary to the mode of their own region; and think it below their notice to investigate them.

The Spaniard who walks in the Streets by the rules of Geometry, his solemnity and taciturnity, can never put up with the fashions and freedom of a French-man. And a young French-man newly come to Spain,
O would

would like as well to pass his time among a parcel of Storks, as to live with Spaniards. When he makes his first appearance at Madrid with all his frankness and elasticity, the people there will swear that he is some mad-man who has made his elopment from bedlam. These two Nations are as opposite to one another, as Summer is to Winter: they even differ in putting on their body-cloaths. A Spaniard begins below at the last button; and a French-man will commence at the top, and buttons all the way down to the last of them.

A stiff German Baron will yield to neither French or Spaniard in point of dignity, nor to any body else; for if two German Barons of the same rank, meet in their carriages, they will rather stop for the space of an hour, or pass another way, if possible, than lose the Pas. A remarkable instance of this kind happened in the reign of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, at Bruffelles. Two German Ladies of quality disputed which of them
should

should precede in public. A process at last ensued between them, and was tried before all the Tribunals of the Empire. Both parties were opulent and of noble descent, they had continued at law for some years, their Judges were either bribed or intimidated by the power and high connections of the adverse party, they lost their rhetoric, they wavered, they varied like the needle from the pole, when it loses the power of attraction. So did the scales of Justice depart from their equilibrium.

At length the Judges fell upon the expedient of carrying the cause before his Imperial Majesty, as the last resort. The Emperor after hearing Advocates on both sides of the question, considered the merits of the cause : Ordained, That, for the future, in all public places, or meetings whatsoever, the ugliest Lady should always take the Pas of the prettiest. After passing the said imperial sentence, the two Ladies were never known to meet again in this world.

The

The British Nation claims a greater freedom of speech, and pretends to more liberty than any other people on earth. When a free Briton makes a Tour to foreign regions, he assures us that they are all slaves in those strange Countries. Their Religion, their manners, their dress, and method of cooking victuals, are all wrong, because these things are not done in the English way. Nay the fields are not so pleasant, nor the Sun, Moon and Stars so bright there, as in Old England. Witness Dr. Johnson, who only made a Tour to the Highlands of Scotland, where he was kindly received, and where he saw as many wonders as Monsieur Fontenelle relates in his Plurality of Worlds. He calls the Language of the Highlanders (the Gaelic) a jargon, because he does not understand it, and because it has not the least affinity with the English tongue.

Had the Doctor been acquainted with Antiquity, he would know, that the earliest Seminaries of Learning we had in Great

Brit

Britain, were in I-callum Kill, in the Isle of Sky, and other parts of the Mountains, where our Kings resided for many ages. The Treaty of Alliance between Achais King of Scotland, (who died Anno 819.) and Charlemagne, King of France, was signed at the Castle of Inverlochay in Lochaber, where the Court was at that time.

* The Celtic Nation who possessed Old Gaul, spoke the Language which he calls jargon. For further intelligence, let the Doctor apply to the Reverend Mr Donald M'Nicol, Minister of the Gospel at Lismore.

Perhaps there is not an English Gentleman in a thousand going abroad, who will give himself the trouble to communicate to the public a proper description of the places that he has seen in foreign climates. To verify this calculation, we shall only take down verbatim Lord Chesterfield's Remarks in a Letter from his Lordship in London, to his Son at Paris, which is as follows.

“The

“ The life of Les Milords Anglois is regular, or if you will, irregular, thus : As soon as they rise, which is very late, they breakfast together, to the utter loss of two good morning hours. Then they go by Coach-fulls to the Palais, the Invalides, Notre Dame ; from thence to the English Coffee-House, where they make up their Tavern-party for dinner. From dinner, where they drink quick, they adjourn to the Play, where they croud upon the Stage, dressed up in very fine cloaths very ill made by a Scotch or Irish Taylor : From the Play to the Tavern again, where they get very drunk ; and where they either quarrel among themselves, or sally forth, commit some riot in the Streets, and are taken up by the Watch. Those who do not speak French before they go, are sure to learn none there. Their tender vows are addressed to their Irish Landress, unless by chance, some itinerant English-woman eloped from her husband, or creditors, defraud her of them.

“ Thus,

“ Thus they return home more petulant,
“ but not more informed, than when they
“ left it ; and shew as they think, their im-
“ provement, by affectedly both speaking
“ and dressing in broken French.

“ A foreigner cannot form an idea of the
“ manners, conversation, or customs of a
“ Country, without being perfectly versed
“ in their Language, &c.”

When these Sons of Liberty thunder away at this rate, what accounts must we expect of their travels? Nay, even their servants return home loaded with the plebeian vices of other Countries, and nothing at all of their virtues. By this, they give bad examples to the common class of Men in Great Britain, who from their notions of freedom, are already too insolent and licentious.

The most frequent Memoirs that we have of Gentlemen's Tour of Europe, is from their Governors ; who sometimes lard them
with

with so many Physical causes, or Natural Philosophy, in so much that the reader's mind is in a moment transported from the Geography and customs of a Country, up to the Planets along with Sir Isaac Newton, Copernicus, or Descartes. From thence they descend again upon the Earth, and land in a Church or Procession, to observe and ridicule the Religion of the place; or to hear a fine band of solemn Music; without ever giving the reader the pleasure of any explanation of their Rites and Mysteries.

But these Observations upon Travellers are not general; for we have seen Histories of Gentlemen's Travels, wherein they took more pains to convey an idea of the parts they were in, to their readers, than to force a belief of their own talents and erudition upon the public. As to our boasted Liberties, they should be always grounded upon the Laws of our Country: And the Laws must be strengthened by the executive power. But we carry our Freedom to a most amazing

ing

ing excess. In Britain, a drunken squanderer of a Husband cannot be exported or laid aside, until he has ruined a numerous family: Nor yet a Wife cannot be confined, though she moths away all that her spouse has in the World. And this liberty is very good to engender a Nation of beggars.

We take the liberty to ensnare and delude the fair sex: Our allurements in that art, far excell the Devil in finesse or deceit; he indeed may help us to obtain our petition, but I think he needs not, for we can do the business without him: And when we have succeeded, we laugh at both the Law, and ruined innocence.

A Footman (in Scotland only) may run away with, and marry his Master's only Daughter, though an Heiress of L. 1000. per annum, and of an ancient Family. A day labourer will often abuse and insult people above his rank; and a Vagabond who can give no good account of himself, cannot be confined; and quality of that kind will take

up their residence in Town or Country, without any questions being asked.

From the freedom which People have of giving no account of themselves, robberies are more frequent in England than in any other Country in Europe. It's true, if they are detected, they are hanged for it: Whereas if they were chained to an Oar, or a hurlbarrow, they might be very useful to the public: But a false opinion of British Liberty will not admit of this deserved slavery. A free-born Briton though a Cocker, will rail at the Ministry, at Majesty itself: And if he takes it in his head, he will go out of the world without asking leave of God Almighty.

If we may enquire how far a Man is free-born, and by nature independant? We must first consider him for seven or nine Months before he comes into the World, kept as close a prisoner as ever * Asmode'e was, when the Magician conjured him into a small bottle,

* See the DEVIL upon Two Sticks.

bottle. During that space of time his life and preservation depend upon his Mother, and not upon himself. When he comes into the world, he has not a shirt to his back; and all he can say or do, is to weep. In his Childhood his diet and his dress are none of his own chusing. If he wants at any time to sit up and divert himself, he is tumbled down into his Cradle, where he cries with vexation until he falls asleep. He is perhaps not half an hour asleep, when a parcel of neighbouring Wives come to see him; then he is immediately pulled out of his Cradle, handed about like a show to the Women, who all declare that they never saw such a pretty Boy in the world; and they are surprised to think how like he is to his Father.

His Mother indeed is very fond of him, believes that he is mighty pretty: And yet at times she takes him by both arms, without ever asking his permission, and she plunges him over head and ears in a tub-full of cold Water, until his little lungs are like to fly out
at

at his mouth: He cries, but he cries in vain; there is no redemption for him.

When he comes to the years of being able to run about with other Boys, he is overpowered by some of them, who are stronger than himself. Nor will it avail him, that he has got over his teething, small pox, measles, chinc-cough, and every other plague of his infancy, he still feels to his cost, that he is not a free and independant being.

When he arrives at his manhood, he can go to no place where he is independant, for if he should retire into an island where there is no man but himself; he is subject to the inclemency of the air, he is bound to provide for his food, and to shun noxious herbs that might poison him; or wild beasts who can destroy him.



F I N I S.

